P

P , p /piː/ **P's, p's** *or* **Ps, ps** the 16th letter of the English alphabet —see also **mind one's p's and q's** (MIND²)

p¹ *BrE infml* penny/pence: *This newspaper costs 25p.* —see PENNY (USAGE)

p² *written abbrev for:* **1** page —see also PP **2** participle **3** population **4** (in music) PIANO² **5** *BrE* penny/pence

P *written abbrev for:* PARKING (2)

P45 /ˌpiː fɔːti ˈfaɪv‖-fɔːrti-/ *n* in Britain, an official document given to a person when they leave a job to show how much money they have earned and how much tax and NATIONAL INSURANCE they have paid during their period of employment. This document must be given to their employer when the person starts a new job.

P60 /ˌpiː ˈsɪksti/ *n* in Britain, an official document given to a person by their employer each year, which shows how much money they have earned and how much tax and NATIONAL INSURANCE they have paid during that year

pa /pɑː/ *n infml & becoming rare* (used to address one's father)

PA¹ /ˌpiː ˈeɪ/ *n* **1** [C] *BrE* personal assistant; a senior secretary employed to look after and take responsibility for the affairs of just one person: *She's my PA.* —compare SECRETARY **2** [*the*+S] public-address system; an electrically controlled apparatus used for making a speaker clearly heard by large groups of people, e.g. in airports or outside: *The message came over loud and clear over the PA.*

PA² *written abbrev. for:* PENNSYLVANIA

p.a. *written abbrev. for:* PER ANNUM

PAC /pæk/ *n* see POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

PAC 10 /ˌpæk ˈten/ *n* see PAC TEN

pace¹ /peɪs/ *n* **1** [S] rate or speed in walking, running, advance of a plan, etc., usu. continued over a period of time: *to walk at a slow pace | The faster runner* **set the pace,** (=fixed the speed) *and the others followed. | She works so fast I can't* **keep pace** *with her.* (=go as fast as her) **2** [C] a single step in running or walking, or the distance moved in one step: *She finished only a few paces behind the winner.* —compare STEP¹ **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a way that a horse walks or runs: *The natural paces of the horse include the walk, the trot, and the gallop.* **4 put someone through their paces** to make someone do something in order to show their abilities: *The film director put the new actor through his paces.* **5 show one's paces** to show one's abilities

pace² *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*;T] to walk (across) with slow, regular, steady steps, esp. backwards and forwards: *The policeman paced up and down. | The lion paced the floor of his cage restlessly.* **2** [T (OFF, OUT)] to measure by taking steps of an equal and known length: *I think the hall is 80 metres long: I'll pace it (out).* **3** [T] to set the speed of movement for: *She knew how fast she was running, because her trainer was pacing her on a bicycle.*

pa·ce³ /ˈpeɪsiː, ˈpɑːkeɪ, ˈpɑːtʃeɪ/ *prep Lat fml, rare* giving proper respect to, but in a polite way disagreeing with: *My own view, pace the last speaker, is that we should sell the property.*

pace bowl·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ also **pace man** /ˈ· ·/— *n* a player who bowls (BOWL²) the ball fast in cricket

pace·mak·er /ˈpeɪsˌmeɪkəʳ/ *n* **1** also **pace·set·ter** /-ˌsetəʳ/ *AmE*— **a** a person or animal that sets a speed that others in a race try to equal **b** a person who sets an example for others **2** a small machine fixed inside the heart in order to make weak or irregular heartbeats regular

pach·y·derm /ˈpækɪdɜːm‖-dɜːrm/ *n tech* a thick-skinned animal, e.g. the elephant and the RHINOCEROS

pa·cif·ic /pəˈsɪfɪk/ *adj fml* **1** helping to cause peace **2** calm; peace-loving —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

Pacific Day·light Time /·ˌ·· ˈ·· ·/ (abbrev. **PDT**) the time used in the summer months in the Pacific Time Zone of the US

Pacific North·west /·ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] the area of the US which includes Washington State, Oregon, and northern California, esp. along the Pacific coast. The area is known for its wild beauty, cliffs, and forests. —compare WEST, WEST COAST

Pacific Ocean /·ˌ··ˈ···/ also **Pacific**— [*the*] the world's largest ocean, covering one third of the Earth's surface between the CONTINENTS of America to the E and Asia and Australia to the W —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Pacific Stan·dard Time /·ˌ·· ˈ·· ·/ the time used from autumn to spring in the Pacific Time Zone of the US

Pacific Ten /·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* see PAC TEN

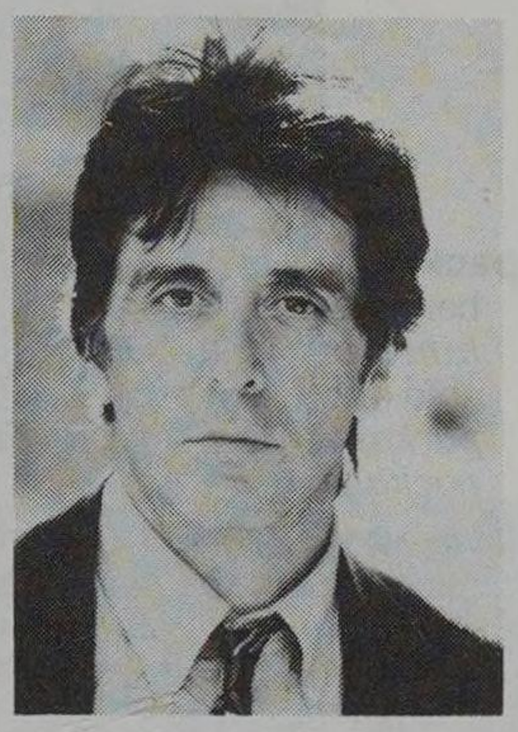
pac·i·fi·er /ˈpæsəfaɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who pacifies **2** *AmE for* DUMMY (3)

pac·i·fist /ˈpæsəfɪst/ *n* a person who believes that all wars are wrong and refuses to fight in them —**fism** *n* [U]

pac·i·fy /ˈpæsəfaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** to make calm, quiet, and satisfied: *to pacify a crying baby* **2** to bring peace to; end war in (a place) —**fication** /ˌpæsəfəˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Pa·ci·no /pəˈtʃiːnəʊ/, **Al** /æl/ (1940–) an American actor known for films such as *The Godfather* and *Scarface*

Al Pacino



pack¹ /pæk/ *n* **1** [C] a number of things wrapped or tied together, or put in a case: *Your membership pack includes a membership card, window sticker, rule book, and list of addresses. | Send away for your free information pack today.* —see also SIX-PACK **2** [C (**of**)] *esp. AmE* a PACKET: *a pack of cigarettes —see USAGE NOTE at* PACKET (1) **3** [C+*sing./pl. v*] **a** a group of wild animals that hunt together, or a group of dogs trained together for hunting: *The pack of hounds was baying loudly. | a ferocious pack of wolves* **b** a group of fighting machines that fight together as one force, esp. SUBMARINES and aircraft **c** (in RUGBY football) the group of players (FORWARDS⁵) whose job is to get possession of the ball for their side **d** a group of CUB SCOUTS or BROWNIE GUIDES **e** *derog* any collection or group: *a pack of thieves | a pack of lies* **4** [C] *BrE*‖**deck** *AmE* a complete set of playing cards: *He dealt the pack.* (=divided the cards among the players) **5** [C] a thick mass of soft cloth pressed to a wound to stop bleeding, etc.; COMPRESS —see also ICE PACK **6** [C] a substance, often a special mud or clay, used on the face as a beauty treatment —see also FACE PACK, MUDPACK **7** [C;U] PACK ICE

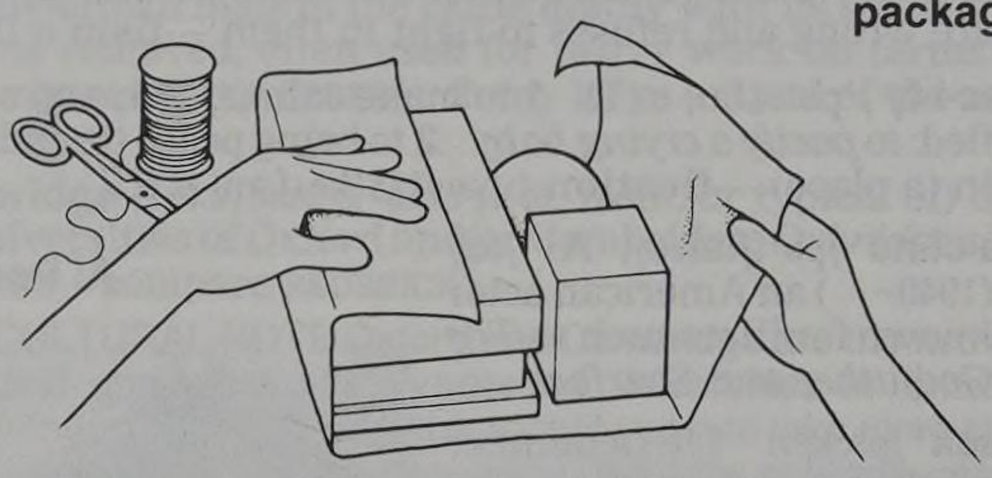
pack² *v* **1 a** [I;T (UP)] to put (things, esp. one's belongings) into cases, boxes, etc., for taking somewhere or storing: *We leave tomorrow but I haven't begun to pack yet! | He remembered to pack his toothbrush. | She takes a packed lunch to school every day. | They packed up the contents of their house.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *Have you packed me a razor?* —opposite **unpack b** [T] to put things into (a case, box, etc.): *He packed a case/an overnight bag. | to pack a tea chest* **c** [I] to be suitable for putting into a container: *This dress packs without creasing.* —see also PACKING **2** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to fit, crush, or push into a space: *When the door was opened, people began to pack into the hall. | The bus was packed with noisy schoolchildren. |* (fig.) *They tried to pack too much into the holiday* (=do too many things) *and returned exhausted.* —see also PACKED **3** [T] to cover, fill, or surround closely with a protective material: *Pack this cloth round the picnic cups so they won't break.* —see also PACKING **4** [I;T+*obj* +*adv/prep*] to settle or be driven into a mass: *The wind packed the snow against the wall.* **5** [T] to prepare and put (food) into containers for preserving or selling **6** [T] *derog* to choose members of (a committee or a JURY) favourable to one's own purpose: *He packed the meeting with his own supporters.* **7** [T] *AmE infml* to carry regularly: *to pack a gun* **8 pack a (hard) punch** *infml* **a** (of a fighter) to be able to hit hard **b** to use very forceful direct language, esp. effectively —see also **send someone packing** (SEND (7)) **9 pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag** the title and first line of a song sung by British soldiers during the First World War: *Pack up your troubles in your old kit-bag and smile, smile, smile...*

pack sbdy./sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to attract (people) in large numbers: *That film is really packing them in.* **2** *esp. BrE* to stop doing; used esp. of something one finds unpleasant, annoying, etc.: *I decided to pack in my university studies and get a job.* | *Pack it in you two; I'm tired of hearing you arguing!*

pack sbdy./sthg. **off** *phr v* [T (**to**)] *infml* to send away quickly, esp. to avoid trouble: *She packed her son off to school.*

pack up *phr v* **1** [I] *infml* to finish work: *As business was slack she packed up early.* **2** [I] *infml, esp. BrE* (of a machine) to stop working: *The engine's packed up!* **3** [T] to stop: *He packed up his job after three months.* [+*v-ing*] *She's packed up smoking at long last.*

package



pack·age[1] /ˈpækɪdʒ/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** an amount or esp. a number of things packed together firmly; a parcel: *She sent him a large package of books.* **2** a set of related things sold or offered as a unit: *The union has negotiated a new package of benefits with the management.* | *a new software package*

package[2] *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to make into or tie up as a package: *She packaged up the old clothes and put them in the cupboard.* **2** to place in a special package before selling: *Those chocolates have been packaged very attractively.* —**-ager** *n*

package deal /ˈ·· ·/ *n infml* an offer or agreement that includes a number of things all of which must be accepted together

package tour /ˈ·· ·/ also **package hol·i·day** /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a completely planned holiday arranged by a company at a fixed price, which includes travel, hotels, meals, etc. —see also extra information on page 632

▶CULTURAL NOTE Many people take package holidays abroad, and there are all kinds of tours to suit different people. However, the popular image of a package tour is of a cheap holiday to a place by the sea in southern Europe (esp. Spain). Many jokes are made about package holidays, esp. about delayed flights, poor quality hotels which serve poor food, and hotels which are a long way from the sea and are not finished: *We went on a package tour this year; a fortnight in Gatwick Airport. It was miles from the beach, but at least it had a roof!*◀

pack·ag·ing /ˈpækɪdʒɪŋ/ *n* [U] material used for packing products: *Complicated packaging increases the price of food.*

pack an·i·mal /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* an animal, such as a horse (**pack-horse**), used for carrying things on its back

packed /pækt/ *adj* (of a room, building, etc.) full of people; CROWDED: *a packed theatre*

packed lunch /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a cold midday meal of sandwiches (SANDWICH[1]), fruit, sweets or other things, packed into a box or parcel and taken with you in the morning to be eaten later. Packed lunches are often given to school children, or people staying at a hotel who are going out on a full day trip.

packed-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [F] *infml, esp. BrE* (of a room, building, etc.) completely full of people

pack·er /ˈpækəʳ/ *n* a person who packs, such as **a** a person who works where food is put into tins, etc., for preserving **b** a person employed to pack the furniture, clothing, etc., of people moving from one house to another

pack·et /ˈpækɨt/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] also **pack** *esp.AmE*— a small parcel; a number of things tied or put together into a small container: *a packet of envelopes|cigarettes|sugar*

▷USAGE Both **pack** and **packet** are used in *AmE*; packets are usu. smaller than packs: *a packet of seeds* | *a packet of sugar* (containing one serving); *a pack of cigarettes*◁

2 [*usu. sing.*] *sl* a large amount of money: *That car cost me a packet.* **3** also **packet boat** /ˈ·· ˌ·/— a boat that carries mail and usu. passengers at regular times between places **4 catch/cop/get/stop a packet** *BrE sl* to get into serious trouble or receive a heavy punishment

packet of three /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n BrE infml* a small packet containing three CONDOMS

packet-switch·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a method of sending DATA (=information stored on a computer) on telephone lines that breaks long messages into pieces (packets) and puts them together again when they are received. It is faster than older methods, and allows many users on a network at the same time.

pack ice /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] sea ice crushed together into a large floating mass

pack·ing /ˈpækɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the act of putting things in cases or boxes: *I'll do my packing the night before we leave.* **2** protective material for packing things: *The price of the books includes* **postage and packing.**

packing case /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large strong wooden box in which heavy articles are packed to be sent elsewhere

pack rat /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a large RAT which collects and stores various things, carrying them in its fat cheeks **2** *AmE* someone who collects and stores things for a long time, esp. unneeded things

pact /pækt/ *n* a solemn agreement, esp. between opposing groups or nations: *The two opposition parties made an electoral pact.* (=agreed to work together in the election) [+*to-v*] *a pact between the management and the union leaders to restrict salary increases* —compare CONVENTION (3), TREATY (1)

Pac Ten /ˌpæk ˈten/ also **Pacific Ten, Pac 10**— *n* [U] a group of ten university FOOTBALL (2) teams from the area of the US along the Pacific coast who play against each other

pad[1] /pæd/ *n* **1** anything made of or filled with soft material to protect something or make it more comfortable, or to fill out a shape: *Put a clean pad of cotton over the wound.* —see also SHOULDER PAD; see picture at CRICKET **2** a number of sheets of paper fastened together, used for writing letters, drawing pictures, etc.: *a writing pad* **3** a piece of material made wet with ink for pressing onto a marker; INKPAD **4** the usu. thick-skinned fleshy underpart of the foot of some four-footed animals: *The dog had a thorn in its pad.* **5** *tech* the large floating leaf of certain water plants such as the WATER LILY **6** a LAUNCH PAD **7** *AmE* a SANITARY TOWEL **8** *rather old-fash sl* one's house or flat: *I'm going over to his pad this evening.*

pad[2] *v* **-dd-** [T] **1** to protect, shape, or make more comfortable by covering or filling with soft material. In cricket, batsmen (BATSMAN) wear special pads to protect their legs: *a coat with padded shoulders* | *a* **padded cell** (=room with soft walls) *in a psychiatric hospital* **2** [(OUT)] to make (a sentence, speech, etc.) longer by adding unnecessary words: *a speech padded (out) with amusing anecdotes*

pad[3] *v* **-dd-** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk steadily and usu. softly, with the foot flat on the ground: *John's dog padded patiently along beside him as he walked.* | *The little boy padded down the hall to his parents' bedroom.*

pad·ding /ˈpædɪŋ/ *n* [U] material used to PAD[2] something: *the padding in my coat|in your speech*

Pad·ding·ton[1] /ˈpædɪŋtən/ one of the mainline railway stations in London —see colour map on page 817

Paddington[2] also **Paddington Bear** /ˌ··· ˈ·/— the main character in the stories for children about a toy bear from Peru who is lost at Paddington Station and goes to live with an English family.

Paddington Bear



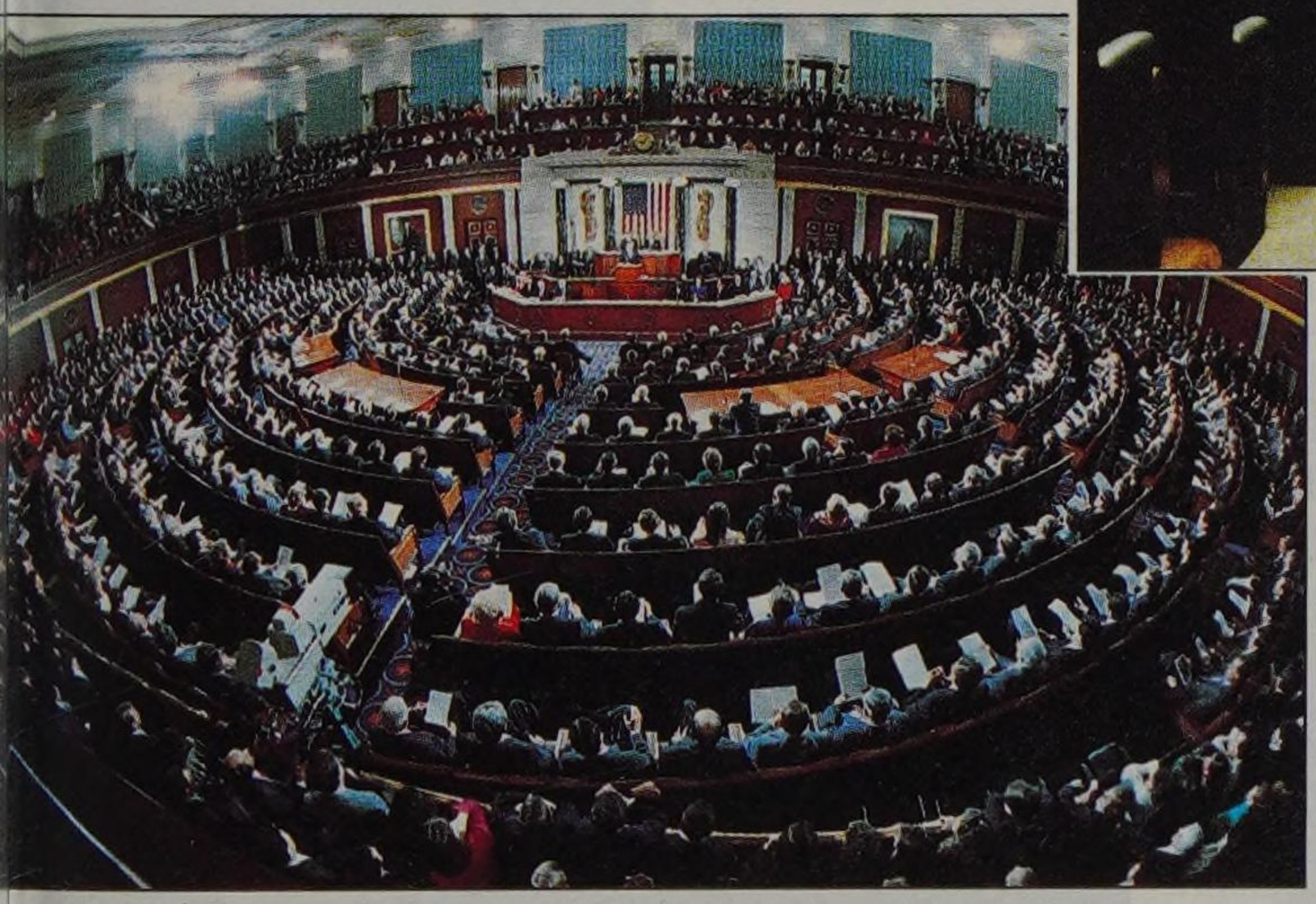
pad·dle[1] /ˈpædl/ *n* **1** [C] a short pole with a wide flat blade at one end or (if a **double paddle**) at both ends, used for moving a small boat (esp. a CANOE) along. It is used freely and not held in position on the side of the boat. —compare OAR **2** [C] anything shaped like this, such as **a** a tool like a flat



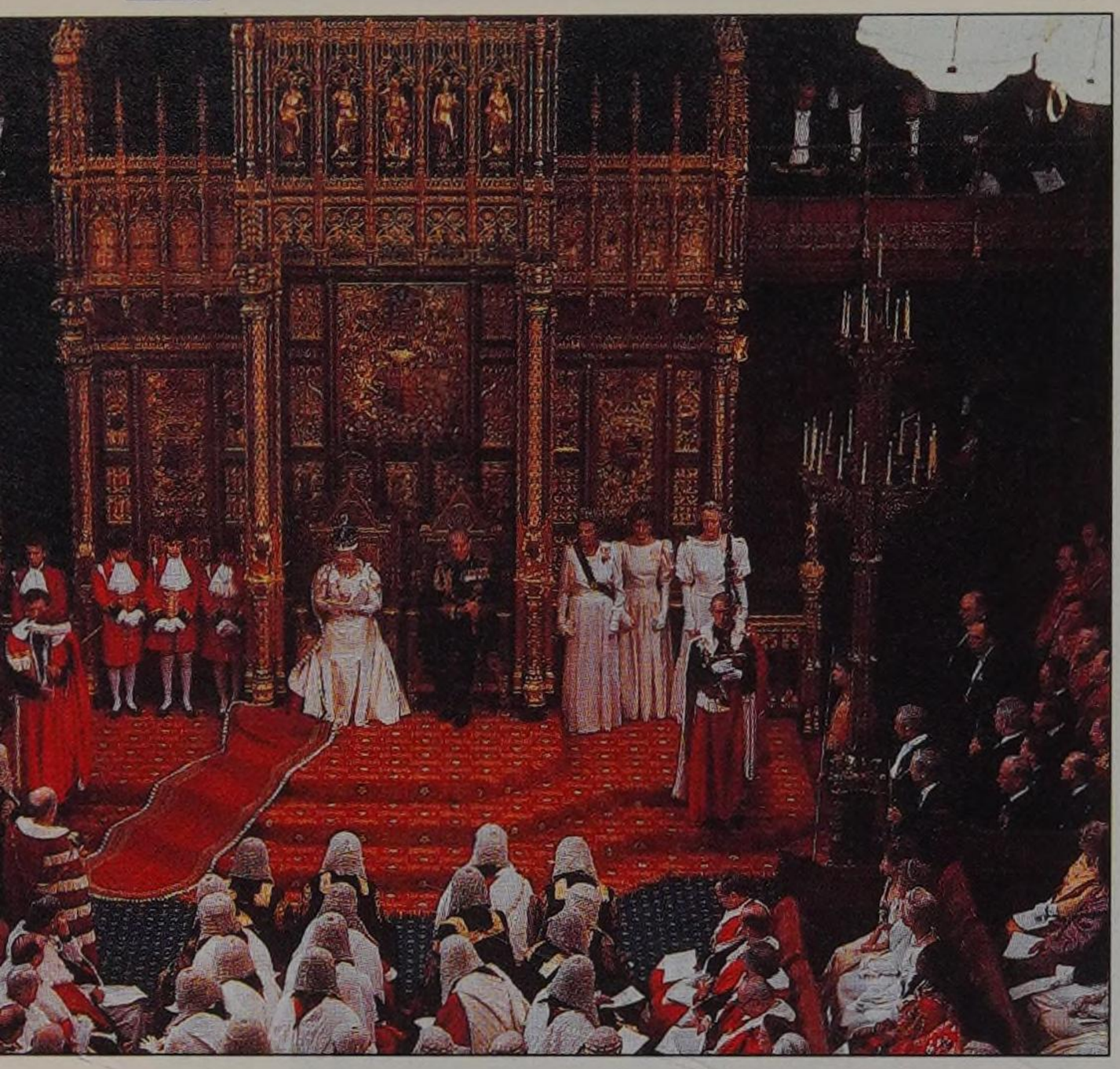
the House of Lords



the House of Commons



he House of Representatives in the US



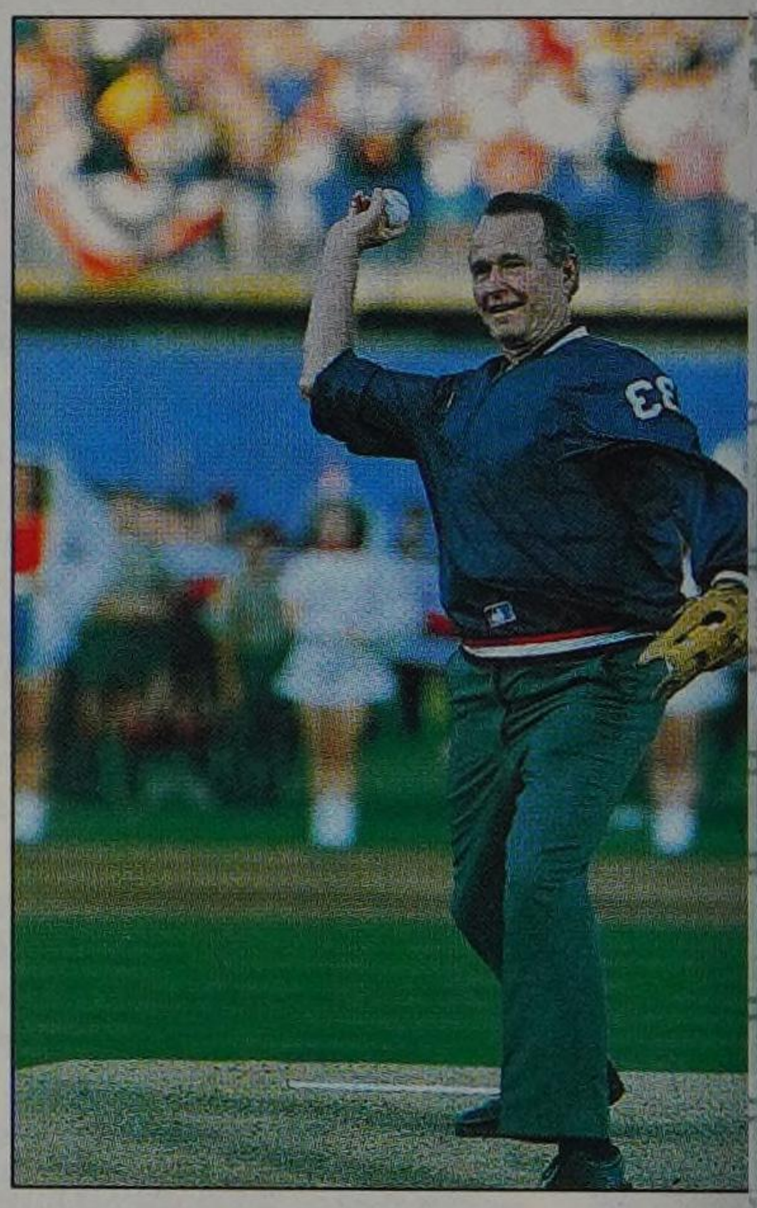
Every year a ceremony called the STATE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT takes place at the Houses of Parliament where the Queen officially opens Parliament



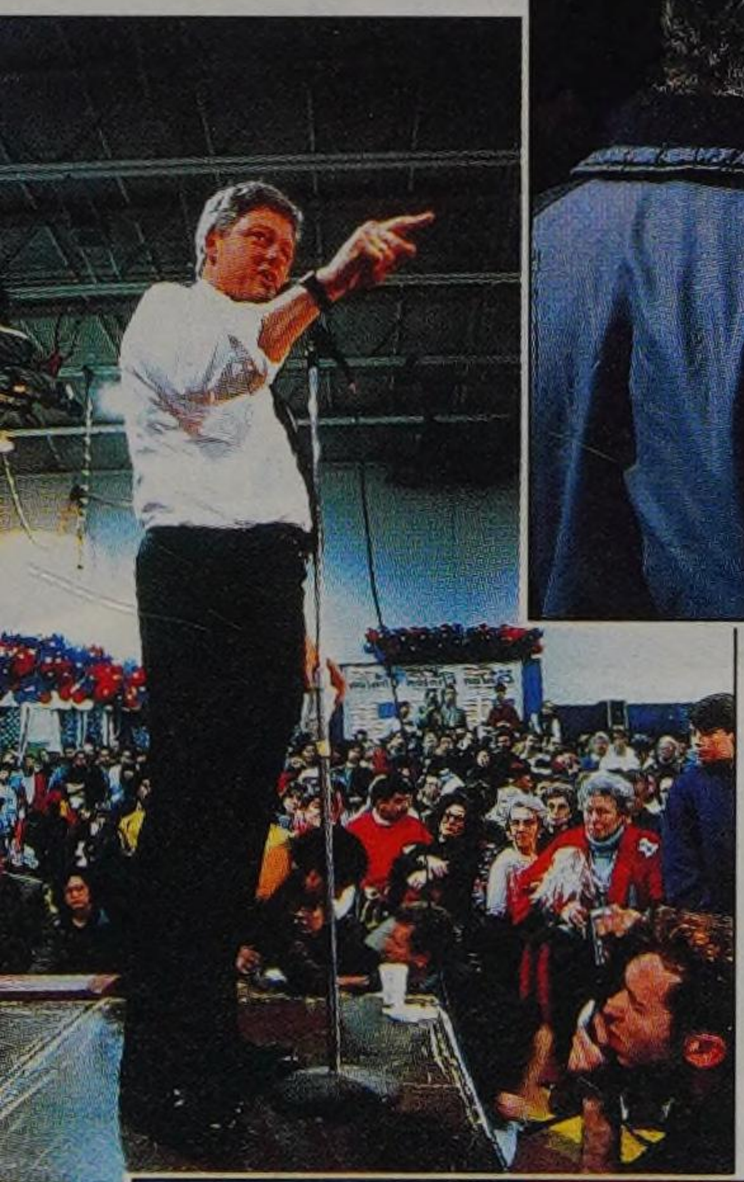
John Major outside 10 Downing Street, the official home of the British Prime Minist



A British politician talking to people in the street to try to get their votes during an election campaign



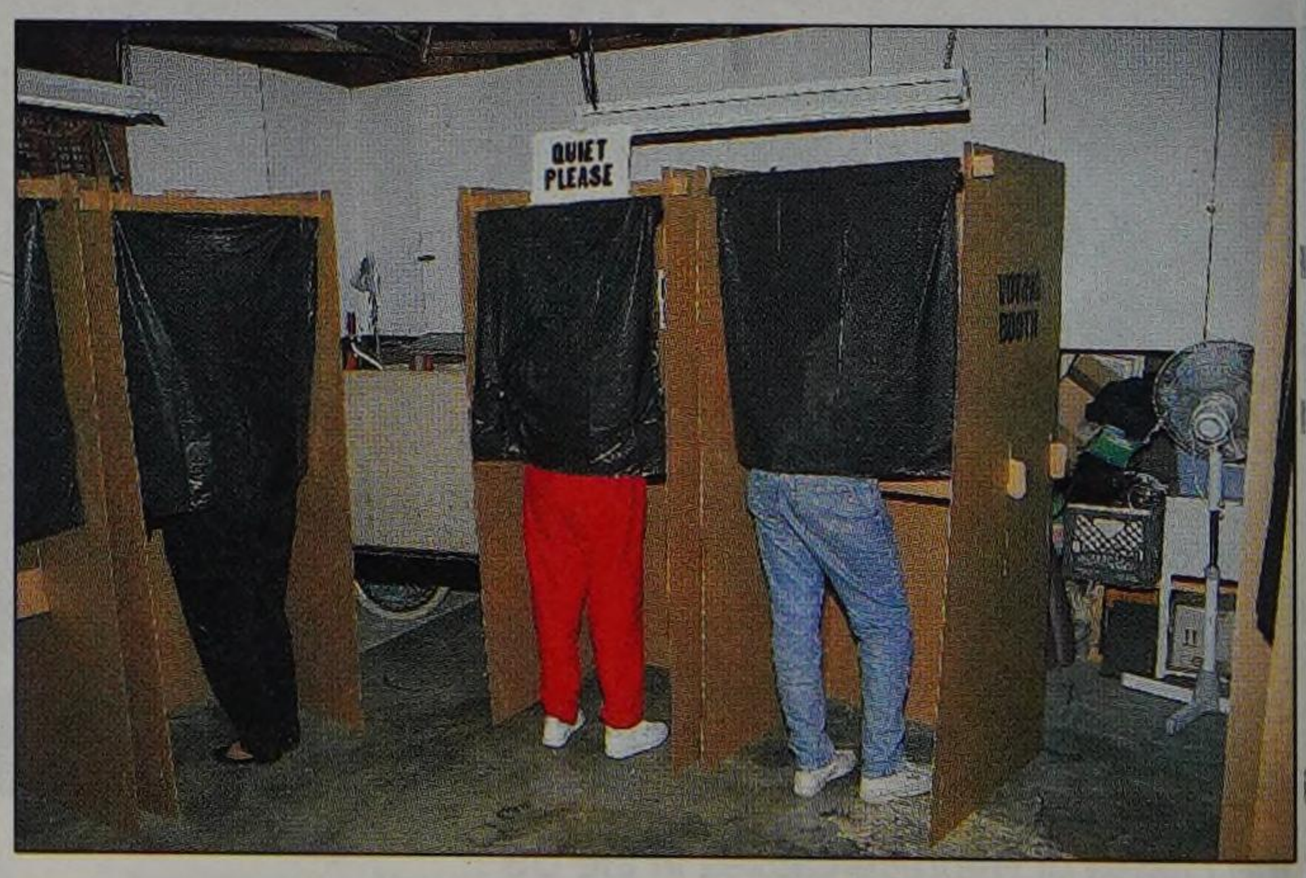
George Bush throwing a baseball onto the field to start the first game of the World Se



Bill Clinton at a US political rally in 1992



The US President, Bill Clinton, and his wife Hillary



polling booths (places where people go to vote in an election) (voting booths *AmE*)

spoon, used for mixing food **b** one of the wide blades used on the wheel of a PADDLE STEAMER **3** *AmE* a small wide flat BAT[1] (1), used esp. in TABLE TENNIS **4** [S] an act or period of walking about in water which is not at all deep: *to go for a paddle in the sea* —see also DOG PADDLE

paddle[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to move (a small light boat, esp. a CANOE) through water, using one or more paddles —compare ROW[1] **2** [I] to swim as a dog or duck does **3** [I] to walk about in water which is not at all deep: *children paddling in the sea* —compare WADE **4** [T] *AmE infml* to strike with the open hand in punishing **5 paddle one's own canoe** *infml* to depend on oneself and no one else

paddle steam·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **side-wheeler** or **stern-wheeler** *AmE*— *n* a steamship which is pushed forward by a pair of large wheels (**paddle wheels**) at the sides or one large wheel at the back

padd·ling pool /ˈ·· ·/ ‖ usu. **baby pool** *or* **wading pool** *AmE*— *n* **1** a small area of water which is not at all deep, where children paddle, usu. in a park **2** a plastic container that can be filled with water, for children to play in

pad·dock /ˈpædək/ *n* **1** a small field near a house or STABLES where horses are kept or exercised **2** a grassy place where horses are brought together before a race so that people may see them

pad·dy[1] /ˈpædi/ also **paddy field** /ˈ·· ·/, **rice paddy**— *n* a field where rice is grown in water

paddy[2] *n* [S] *BrE infml* a state of bad temper

Paddy *n infml, sometimes derog* an Irishman (a short form of Patrick, a common name in Ireland)

paddy wag·on /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n infml AmE* PATROL WAGON

Pad·e·rew·ski /ˌpædəˈrefski/, **Jan** /jæn‖jɑːn/ (1860–1941) a Polish piano player of CLASSICAL music who became the first PRIME MINISTER of Poland after the First World War

pad·lock /ˈpædlɒk‖-lɑːk/ *n* a lock that can be put on and removed, by means of a U-shaped metal bar, used for locking gates, bicycles, cupboards, etc. —**padlock** *v* [T]: *to padlock the gate*

pa·dre /ˈpɑːdri, -reɪ/ *n infml* (*often cap.*) a priest, esp. one in the Armed Forces; CHAPLAIN: *Hello, Padre!* —see PRIEST (USAGE)

pae·an /ˈpiːən/ *n lit* a joyous song of praise, thanks, or victory

paed·e·rast *BrE*‖**pederast** *AmE* /ˈpedəræst/ *tech n* a man who has sex with a boy — ~**rasty** *n* [U]

pae·di·a·tri·cian *BrE*‖**pediatrician** *AmE* /ˌpiːdiəˈtrɪʃən/ *n* a doctor who specializes in paediatrics

pae·di·at·rics *BrE*‖**pediatrics** *AmE* /ˌpiːdiˈætrɪks/ *n* [U] the branch of medicine concerned with children and their illnesses

pae·do·phile *BrE*‖**pedophile** *AmE* /ˈpiːdəfaɪl/ *n* a person who is sexually attracted to young children

pa·el·la /paɪˈelə‖pɑː-/ *n* [U] a Spanish dish of rice cooked with pieces of meat, fish, and vegetables

pae·o·ny /ˈpiːəni/ *n* a PEONY

pa·gan /ˈpeɪgən/ *n* **1** *derog* a person (esp. in ancient times) who is not a believer in any of the chief religions of the world, and esp. not in one's own religion; HEATHEN: *They regard us all as pagans.* —compare ATHEIST, HEATHEN **2** (used esp. of the ancient Greeks and Romans) a person who believes in many gods —**pagan** *adj*: *pagan tribes/beliefs* — ~**ism** *n* [U]

Pag·a·ni·ni /ˌpægəˈniːni/, **Nic·co·lò** /ˈnɪkələʊ/ (1782–1840) Italian VIOLIN player and writer of music, of international fame

page[1] /peɪdʒ/ *n* **1** one side or both sides of a sheet of paper in a book, newspaper, etc.: *Turn over; there's a picture on the next page.* | *Turn to page 44.* | *Someone has torn a page out of this book.* | *I took/made several pages of notes on his talk.* | *a dog-eared page* | *a blank/fresh/new page* | *the front page/sports pages of the newspaper* **2** *lit* an important event or period: *These years will be remembered as some of the finest pages in our country's history.*

page[2] *n* **1** also **pageboy**— **a** a boy servant in a hotel, club, etc., usu. uniformed **b** a boy attendant on the BRIDE at a wedding **2** a boy in former times who was in training to be a KNIGHT (noble soldier) **3** *now rare* a boy in service to a person of high rank

page[3] *v* [T] (in a public place) to call aloud for (someone who is wanted for some reason), esp. through a LOUDSPEAKER: *I couldn't find my friend at the airport, so I had her paged.*

pag·eant /ˈpædʒənt/ *n* **1** [C] a splendid public show or ceremony, usu. out of doors, in which there is a procession of people in rich dress or in which historical scenes are acted: *a village pageant moving through the streets on floats* | (fig.) *the rich pageant of history* **2** [U] splendid show that looks grand but has no meaning or power

pag·eant·ry /ˈpædʒəntri/ *n* [U] splendid show of ceremonial grandness with people in beautiful dress: *the pageantry of a royal wedding*

page·boy /ˈpeɪdʒbɔɪ/ *n* **1** a PAGE[2] (1) **2** a style of cutting women's hair, in which the hair reaches down to the neck, has its ends turned under, and is cut in a long FRINGE[1] (2) at the front

pa·ger /ˈpeɪdʒəʳ/ *n AmE for* BLEEPER

page three girl /ˌ· ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a young and attractive woman, usu. with large breasts, whose photograph appears on the third page of the *Sun*, a British newspaper

pa·go·da /pəˈgəʊdə/ *n* a temple (esp. Buddhist or Hindu) often built on several floors or levels with a decorative roof at each level

Pah·la·vi /ˈpɑːləvi‖ˈpæl-/, **Mo·ham·med Re·za** /məʊˈhæmɨd ˈriːzə‖-riːˈzɑː/ (1918–80) the Shah of Iran from 1941 to 1979. He was forced to leave his country during a period of political trouble and died soon afterwards.

paid /peɪd/ *written abbrev.* **pd** *past tense and participle of* PAY

paid po·lit·i·cal broad·cast /ˌ· ·ˌ··· ˈ··/ *AmE for* PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST

paid-up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having paid in full, esp. so as to continue being a member: *a paid-up member of the club* —compare PAY **up**

pail /peɪl/ *n esp. AmE* **1** *esp. AmE* a bucket for carrying liquids: *a milk pail* | *a slop pail* (=for dirty water and liquid waste) **2** also **pail·ful** /-fʊl/— the amount a pail will hold: *two pailfuls of water*

pail·lasse /ˈpæliæs‖ˌpæliˈæs/ *n* a PALLIASSE

pain[1] /peɪn/ *n* **1** [U] suffering; great discomfort of the body or mind: *He was in great pain/crying with pain after he broke his arm.* | *His behaviour caused his parents a great deal of pain.* | *The pain eased slightly.* | *to inflict pain on someone* **2** [C] an esp. sharp feeling of suffering or discomfort in a particular part of the body: *a stabbing/severe/nagging pain in my back* | *slight stomach pains* | *She's always complaining of* **aches and pains.** | (fig., *sl*) *You give me a pain!* (=You annoy me.) —compare ACHE[2]; see also GROWING PAINS **3** [S] also **pain in the neck** /ˌ· · · ˈ·/— *sl* a person, thing, or situation that makes one angry and tired, but is difficult to avoid; NUISANCE: *She's a real pain.* | *It's a pain in the neck having to meet them at the airport.* **4 on/under pain of** *fml* at the risk of suffering (some punishment): *They were forbidden to leave, on pain of death.* —see also PAINS

pain[2] *v* [T] **1** *lit or fml* to cause to feel pain in the mind; hurt: *It pains me to have to leave, but I must.* **2** [*no pass.*] *fml* (of a part of the body) to cause pain to; hurt

Paine /peɪn/, **Thomas** (1737–1809) an American political thinker and writer, born in England. He supported the French Revolution and had to escape from England to France because of this. His most famous books are *The Rights of Man* and *The Age of Reason*.

pained /peɪnd/ *adj* [(**at**)] displeased or hurt in one's feelings: *She looked rather pained at your remarks.* | *After they had quarrelled there was a pained silence.*

pain·ful /ˈpeɪnfəl/ *adj* causing pain, esp. physical pain: *a painful cut on his thumb* | *Does it still feel painful?* | *It must have been very painful for you tell her about the accident.* | (fig.) *That singer is/sounds absolutely painful!* (=terrible) — ~**ly** *adv*: *It is painfully clear that Tom will fail his exam.* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

pain·kill·er /ˈpeɪnˌkɪləʳ/ also **analgesic** *med*— *n* a medicine which lessens or removes pain

pain·less /ˈpeɪnləs/ *adj* **1** causing no pain: *painless childbirth* **2** *infml* needing no effort or hard work: *a painless way of learning a foreign language* — ~**ly** *adv*

pains /peɪnz/ *n* [P] **1** trouble; effort: *We gave the taxi driver*

something extra **for his pains.** | *She* **went to great pains/took pains** *with her work.* (=made an effort) **2 be at pains to do something: a** to take great trouble about something: *The teacher was at (great) pains to make sure that we all understood.* **b** to be particularly careful to do something: *He was at pains to point out my mistake.*

pains·tak·ing /ˈpeɪnzˌteɪkɪŋ/ *adj* very careful and thorough: *painstaking care* | *She is not very clever but she is painstaking.* —~**ly** *adv*

paint[1] /peɪnt/ *n* [U] **1** liquid colouring matter which can be put or spread on a surface to make it a certain colour: *a tin/a tube of green paint* | *oil paint* | *gloss paint* | *Wet Paint* (=a warning sign placed near a freshly painted surface) **2** *old use* colouring matter used on the face; MAKE-UP —see also GREASEPAINT, PAINTS; compare DYE

paint[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to put paint on (a surface): *I wear old trousers when I'm painting.* | *The ceiling needs painting.* [+*obj*+*adj*] *I painted the door blue.* **2 a** [T] to make by using paint: *to paint pictures* **b** [T] to make a picture of: *She painted the view from her hotel window.* **c** [I] to paint pictures: *His wife paints.* | *She paints in oils/in watercolours.* **3** [I;T] *old use derog* to colour (the face) with MAKE-UP: *painted prostitutes* **4** [T] to describe in clear well-chosen words: *His letters* **paint a** *wonderful* **picture** *of his life in Burma.* **5** [T] to put medicine on (esp. the throat) with a brush **6 paint the town red** *infml* to go out and have an extremely good time, usu. to CELEBRATE something —see also **not as black as one is painted** (BLACK[1])

paint·box /ˈpeɪntbɒks‖-bɑːks/ *n* a (usu. metal) box containing hard blocks of paint which can be mixed with water, often used by children

paint·brush /ˈpeɪntbrʌʃ/ *n* a brush for spreading paint on a surface —see picture at BRUSH

Painted Des·ert /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] an area in the American state of Arizona, east of the Little Colorado River, known for its red, brown, and purple rock surfaces on small and large PLATEAUS (=stretches of level land higher than the surrounding land)

paint·er[1] /ˈpeɪntəʳ/ *n* **1** a person whose job is painting houses, rooms, etc. **2** a person who paints pictures; ARTIST: *a portrait/landscape painter* | *a good painter*

painter[2] *n tech* a rope for tying a small boat to a ship or to a post on land

paint·ing /ˈpeɪntɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the act of painting **a** houses, rooms, etc. **b** pictures: *I've always admired Monet's early painting.* **2** [C] a painted picture: *to hang a painting*

paints /peɪnts/ *n* [P] a set of small tubes or CAKES (=dry flat pieces) of paint of different colours, usu. in a paintbox, used for making pictures: *a set of oil paints*

paint·work /ˈpeɪntwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] a painted surface: *some damage to the paintwork on my car*

pair[1] /peəʳ/ *n* **pairs** *or* **pair** **1** [**(of)**] something made up of two parts that are alike and are joined and used together: *There's a clean pair of trousers on your bed.* | *a pair of scissors* —see USAGE **2** [**(of)**] two things that are alike or of the same kind, and are usu. used together: *Is that a new pair of shoes?* | *a beautiful pair of candlesticks* | *a pair (of kings)* (=two playing cards of the same value) | *I've lost my gloves — have you got a spare pair?* | *I've only got one pair of hands!* (=I can't do all this work) **3** [+*sing./pl. v*] two people closely connected, esp. a COUPLE[1] (2): *a pair of dancers* | *The* **happy pair** *is/are going to Spain after their wedding.* | *The children walked* **in pairs.** (=in twos) **4** [+*sing./pl. v*] **a** two animals, male and female, that stay together for a long time **b** two horses that pull a cart, etc.: *to drive a carriage and pair* —see also TEAM[1] (2) **5** *taboo sl* a woman's breasts

▷ USAGE Some words like **trousers** and **scissors** are used like plural nouns, but they are not thought of as having number. So you can say *These* **scissors**/*My other* **trousers** *are old,* but the actual number of items (one or more) can only be known from the situation. You cannot use words to show the number of these items unless you also use **pair** or **pairs:** *a* **pair** *of* **scissors** | *both* **pairs** *of* **trousers** | *three* **pairs** *of* **trousers. Pair** is also used for things like **shoes** which can be talked about separately or two at a time. You can say *one* **shoe**/*both* **shoes** as well as *a* **pair** *of* **shoes**/*five* **pairs** *of* **shoes.** Any word in this dictionary which is followed by the note "see PAIR (USAGE)" can be used in the expression *a* **pair** *of X.* —compare BRACE; see COUPLE (USAGE)◁

pair[2] *v* [I;T (OFF, UP)] to (cause to) form into one or more pairs: *Birds often pair in the spring.* | *We tried to pair Jane and David off/to pair Jane off with David.* | *He was paired (up) with my sister in the tennis tournament.*

pais·ley /ˈpeɪzli/ *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) cloth with curved coloured patterns (from the town **Paisley** in Scotland, where the pattern was first made on a large scale): *a paisley skirt*

Paisley, the Reverend I·an /ˈiːən/ (1926–) Northern Irish PROTESTANT political leader who speaks very strongly in favour of Northern Ireland remaining part of the United Kingdom, and against the IRA. He is known for his strong, emotional way of speaking about religious and political matters.

Pai·ute /paɪˈuːt/ *n* [C; *the* +P] (a member of) a Native American people living in the SW of the US —see also NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

pa·ja·mas /pəˈdʒɑːməz‖-ˈdʒɑː-, -ˈdʒæ-/ *n* [P] *esp. AmE for* PYJAMAS —see PAIR (USAGE) —**pajama** *adj* [A]

Pak·i /ˈpæki/ *n BrE derog* a person from Pakistan, or one born in Britain whose parents were from Pakistan; an offensive word

Paki bash·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* attacks and other violence against people of Asian origin in Britain, usu. by young people with RIGHT-WING opinions

Paki shop /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE derog* a small local shop, often on a street corner, run by Asians of any country

Pa·kis·tan /ˌpɑːkɪˈstɑːn, ˌpækɪˈstæn/ a country, officially called the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, bordered by India to the E, Afghanistan to the N and W, Iran to the SW, and the Arabian Sea to the S; capital Islamabad; population 108,678,000 (1989) —**-tani** /ˌpɑːkɪˈstɑːni◂, pæk-‖-ˈstɑːni◂, -ˈstæni◂/ *n,adj*

pal[1] /pæl/ *n infml* **1** a close friend: *an old pal of mine* | *We've been pals for years!* **2** *esp. AmE, ScE* (often used in unfriendly speech to a man): *Listen, pal, I don't want you talking to my sister any more, see?* —see also PALLY

pal[2] *v*

pal up *phr v* **-ll-** [I (**with**)] *BrE infml* to become friends

Pal *n* [U] *tdmk* a type of food for dogs, made by Pedigree Petfoods

pal·ace /ˈpælɪs/ *n* **1** [C] (*often cap. as part of a name*) a large grand house where a ruling king or queen, or a British BISHOP or ARCHBISHOP, officially lives: *Buckingham Palace* —see HOUSE (USAGE) **2** [C] any large splendid house: *The nobles of Florence built splendid palaces.* | *His home is a palace compared to ours!* —compare STATELY HOME **3** [C] *esp. BrE* a large building used for public amusement: *Some cinemas used to be called Picture Palaces.* —see also PALATIAL

Palace [*the*] *BrE* **1** *infml* Buckingham Palace **2** the Queen (or King) and the royal officials: *a Palace spokesman* | *The Palace won't like all this gossip.*

Palace of West·min·ster /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ [*the*] the official name of the Houses of Parliament, London. The full title, not so frequently used, is the **New Palace of Westminster** (from the name of a royal palace which used to stand where the Houses of Parliament are now).

palace rev·o·lu·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* the removal from office of a king, president, etc., usu. by those just beneath him/her in rank

pal·a·din /ˈpælədɪn/ *n* **1** any of 12 men of high rank under Charlemagne (742–814) **2** *lit* someone who is strongly in favour of something, esp. in politics

pal·ais /ˈpæleɪ, *infml* ˈpæli‖pæˈleɪ/ also **palais de danse** /ˌpæleɪ də ˈdɑːns‖pæˈleɪ də dæns/— *n* **palais** /ˈpæleɪz‖pæˈleɪz/ *BrE* (*often cap.*) a large public hall used for dancing

pal·an·quin /ˌpælənˈkiːn/ *n* a vehicle like a box with a seat or bed inside it for one person, carried on poles, formerly used in India and other eastern countries; the person carried would probably be rich or important

pal·a·ta·ble /ˈpælətəbəl/ *adj* **1** pleasant to taste, though not special: *a palatable meal* **2** pleasant: *She didn't find my suggestion at all palatable.* —opposite **unpalatable** —**-bly** *adv*

pal·a·tal /ˈpælətl/ *n, adj tech* (a consonant sound) made by

putting the tongue against or near the HARD PALATE

pal·ate /ˈpælɨt/ *n* **1** [C] the ROOF (=top inside part) of the mouth —see also CLEFT PALATE, HARD PALATE, SOFT PALATE **2** [C (**for**) *usu. sing.*] the ability to judge good food or wine: *She has a good palate for wine.* **3** [C;U (**for**)] a taste or liking: *His novels are too sad for my palate.* | *Spicy food suits my palate best.*

▷ USAGE Many people would use **taste** or **liking** rather than **palate**, as **palate** is a more formal word.◁

pa·la·tial /pəˈleɪʃəl/ *adj* (usu. of buildings) like a palace; grand and splendid: *a palatial hotel* —~**ly** *adv*

pa·lat·i·nate /pəˈlætɨnɨt/ *n old use* (*often cap.*) an area formerly ruled over by a man of high rank (**Palatine, Count Palatine**) who was the representative of a higher ruler: *the Rhine Palatinate*

pa·la·ver /pəˈlɑːvəʳ‖-ˈlæ-/ *n* **1** [U] *infml* continuous foolish meaningless talk: *What's all the palaver about?* **2** [U] *infml* trouble, inconvenience, or anxiety (over small matters); BOTHER; FUSS: *all the palaver of booking tickets and renewing my passport* **3** [C] *rare* a long talk about something important, esp. between opposing leaders

pale[1] /peɪl/ *adj* **1** (of a person's face or skin) having less than the usual amount of colour; rather white: *You're looking rather pale; are you ill?* | *a pale complexion* **2** (of colours or light) not bright: *pale blue* | *pale sunshine* —compare DEEP[1] (5), LIGHT[3] (2) —~**ly** /ˈpeɪl-li/ *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pale[2] *v* [I] **1** to become pale: *He paled at the sight of the blood.* **2** [(**before, beside**)] to seem less important, clever, beautiful, etc., when compared with: *All other anxieties* **paled into insignificance** *beside the possibility of war.* | *This year's profits* **pale by/in comparison with** *the huge profits we made last year.*

pale[3] *n* **1** a PALING **2 beyond the pale** beyond the limit of proper behaviour: *She went a bit beyond the pale bringing six uninvited people to my party!*

pale ale /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] LIGHT ALE

pale·face /ˈpeɪlfeɪs/ *n derog & humor* (the name said to have been used formerly by Native Americans for) a white person

pal·e·og·ra·phy /ˌpæliˈɒgrəfi‖ˌpeɪliˈɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of ancient writing —**-pher** *n*

pal·e·o·lith·ic /ˌpæliəʊˈlɪθɪk◂‖ˌpeɪ-/ *adj* (*often cap.*) of the earliest period of the STONE AGE, when people made stone weapons and tools: *a paleolithic axe* —compare NEOLITHIC

pal·e·on·tol·o·gy /ˌpælɪɒnˈtɒlədʒi‖ˌpeɪliɑːnˈtɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of FOSSILS —**-gist** *n*

Pal·es·tine /ˈpælɨstaɪn/ an area covering parts of modern Israel, holy to Christians, Jews, and Muslims. It has been the cause of fierce argument and fighting for many years between Israel and the Arab states.

Palestine Lib·e·ra·tion Or·ga·ni·za·tion /ˌ··· ··ˈ·· ···ˌ··/ [*the*] see PLO

Pal·e·stin·i·an /ˌpælɨˈstɪniən◂/ *adj* a usu. Muslim person from Palestine. Most Palestinians are Muslims, but some are Christians.

pal·ette /ˈpælɨt/ *n* **1** a board with a curved edge and a hole for the thumb, on which a painter mixes colours **2** *tech* the particular colours used by a painter or for a picture

palette knife /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a thin bendable knife with a rounded end, used by painters to mix colours, and in cookery

pal·frey /ˈpɔːlfri/ *n old use & poet* a horse trained for riding, esp. for use by a woman

Pa·li Can·on /ˈpɑːli ˌkænən/ [*the*] all of the teachings of the Buddha, as written down in the Pali language, starting in the first century BC.

pal·i·mo·ny /ˈpælɨməni‖-məʊni/ *n* [U] *AmE* money that a man or woman has been ordered to pay regularly to a former partner when they separate after having lived together without being married

pal·imp·sest /ˈpælɨmpsest/ *n* an ancient piece of writing material on which the original writing was rubbed out, not always completely, so that it could be used again

pal·in·drome /ˈpælɨndrəʊm/ *n* a word, phrase, etc., that reads the same backwards as it does forwards: *The words "deed" and "level" are palindromes.*

pal·ing /ˈpeɪlɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] also **pale**— a pointed piece of wood used with others in making a fence **2** [U] palings

pal·ings /ˈpeɪlɪŋz/ *n* [P] a fence made out of palings: *He jumped over the palings.*

pal·i·sade /ˌpælɨˈseɪd/ *n* **1** a fence made of strong pointed iron or wooden poles, usu. used for defence in past centuries **2** also **palisades** *pl.*— *esp. AmE* a line of high straight cliffs esp. along a river or beside the sea

pal·ish /ˈpeɪlɪʃ/ *adj* rather pale

pall[1] /pɔːl/ *v* [I (**on, upon**)] to become uninteresting or unattractive, esp. through being done, used, heard, etc., too often or for too long: *I find his books begin to pall (on me) after a while — they're all very similar.*

pall[2] *n* **1** [S (**of**)] something heavy or dark which covers or seems to cover: *a pall of darkness* | *A pall of smoke hung over the burning city.* **2** [C] a large piece of cloth spread over a COFFIN (=a box in which a dead body is carried) **3** [C] *AmE* a COFFIN with a body inside

Pal·la·di·an /pəˈleɪdiən/ *adj tech* **1** of an Italian 16th-century style of building **2** of an English 18th-century CLASSICAL (1) style of building

Pal·la·di·um /pəˈleɪdiəm/ [*the*] the LONDON PALLADIUM

pall-bear·er /ˈpɔːlˌbeərəʳ/ *n* a person who walks beside or helps to carry a COFFIN at a funeral

pal·let /ˈpælɨt/ *n* **1** a large metal plate or flat wooden frame for lifting and storing heavy goods, used with a FORKLIFT TRUCK and having a hole into which the fork can be fixed **2** *AmE, old-fash* a STRAW MATTRESS (=part of a bed that one sleeps on) or temporary bed **3** *AmE* for SKID[2] (3)

pal·li·asse , paillasse /ˈpæliæs‖ˌpæliˈæs/ *n old-fash or lit* a thin cloth case filled with STRAW for sleeping on

pal·li·ate /ˈpælieɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to lessen the unpleasant effects of (illness, suffering, etc.) without removing the cause **2** to make (something) seem less wrong by giving excuses —**-ation** /ˌpæliˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pal·li·a·tive /ˈpæliətɪv/ *n* [(**for**)] *fml* something that palliates: *The government's new economic measures are merely palliatives; they don't get to the root of the trouble.*

pal·lid /ˈpælɨd/ *adj* (of the face, skin, etc.) unusually or unhealthily pale; WAN: *a pallid complexion* | (fig.) *She gave a pretty pallid* (=dull and lifeless) *performance.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Pall Mall /ˌpæl ˈmæl/ a broad road in central London, between Trafalgar Square and St James's Palace, known formerly as a fashionable place

pal·lor /ˈpæləʳ/ *n* [S] unhealthy paleness of the skin or face

pal·ly /ˈpæli/ also **palsy-walsy**— *adj* [F (**with**)] *infml* having a friendly relationship (with); FRIENDLY sometimes used in a disapproving way: *They are very pally.* | *I didn't know you were pally with her.*

palm[1] /pɑːm‖pɑːm, pɑːlm/ *n* **1** also **palm tree** /ˈ· ·/— any of a large family of mainly tropical trees which are usu. very tall and have branchless stems and a mass of large leaves at the top —see also COCONUT, DATE[3] **2 bear/carry off the palm** *fml* to be judged to be the best of all, esp. in some kind of sport, study, or skill



palm[2] *n* **1 a** the surface of the hand between the base of the fingers and the wrist on the side that can be bent inwards —see picture at HAND **b** the part of a GLOVE that covers the inside of the hand **2 hold/have someone in the palm of one's hand** to have complete power over someone —see also ITCHY PALM, **cross someone's palm (with silver)** (CROSS[2]), **grease someone's palm** (GREASE[2])

palm[3] *v* [T] to hide in the palm of one's hand, esp. when performing a trick or stealing something: *The magician palmed the coin and suddenly produced it from a boy's ear.*

palm sthg./sbdy. **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** [(**on, onto, as**)] to get rid of (something bad or unwanted) by persuading someone that it is acceptable: *The fruit seller palmed off some bad oranges onto the old lady.* | *He tried to palm the painting off as a real Renoir.* —compare FOB **off/on,** PASS **off** (2) **2** [(**with**)] to persuade (someone) to accept something worthless by lying or some other deception: *They tried to palm me off with an obsolete computer/with some excuse.* —compare FOB **off with**

Palm Beach /ˌ· ˈ·/ a town in SE Florida, US, which is a tourist centre popular esp. with rich people

Pal·me /ˈpælmə/, **O·lof** /ˈəʊləf/ (1927–86) the Prime Minister of Sweden from 1982 until he was killed by an unknown man who shot him in the street in Stockholm

Palm·er /ˈpɑːmərˠ/, **Arnold** (1929–) American GOLF player, one of the best of modern times

pal·met·to /pælˈmetəʊ/ *n* **-tos** *or* **-toes** a small palm tree with deeply cut leaves, found esp. in the south-eastern US

palm·ist /ˈpɑːmɪst‖ˈpɑːm-, ˈpɑːlm-/ ‖ usu. **palm read·er** /ˈ· ˌ··/ *AmE*– *n* a person who claims to be able to tell what someone is like, or what their future is, by examining the lines on the palm of their hand –compare FORTUNE-TELLER

palm·ist·ry /ˈpɑːmɪstri‖ˈpɑːm-, ˈpɑːlm-/ also **palm read·ing** /ˈ· ˌ··/– *n* [U] the art or practice of a palmist

palm oil /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] oil obtained from the nut of an African palm tree

Palm Springs /ˌ· ˈ·/ a city in the US state of California, east of Los Angeles, known esp. for attracting rich and famous people, and for its GOLF COURSES

Palm Sun·day /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] (in the Christian church) the Sunday before Easter (from the palm leaves that were spread on the ground in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem). In some churches people who attend the service on Palm Sunday are given a piece of palm leaf folded into the shape of a cross.

palm·y /ˈpɑːmi‖ˈpɑːmi, ˈpɑːlmi/ *adj* (esp. of a period in the past) active and successful; PROSPEROUS

Pal·o·mar /ˈpæləʊmɑːrˠ/, **Mount** a mountain near San Diego, CA, where the **Mount Palomar Observatory** is. It has a very large TELESCOPE and other instruments for studying things in space.

pal·o·mi·no /ˌpæləˈmiːnəʊ◂/ *n* **-nos** (*sometimes cap.*) a horse of a golden or cream colour, with a white MANE and tail

pal·pa·ble /ˈpælpəbəl/ *adj fml* **1** (esp. of something bad) easily and clearly known by the senses or the mind; OBVIOUS: *a palpable lie* **2** that can be touched or physically felt; TANGIBLE: *an almost palpable atmosphere of mistrust.* –opposite **impalpable** **–-bly** *adv* : *What you say is palpably false.*

pal·pate /pælˈpeɪt‖ˈpælpeɪt/ *v* [T] *med* to examine by touching: *The doctor palpated his abdomen.* **–-pation** /pælˈpeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pal·pi·tate /ˈpælpɪteɪt/ *v* [I] **1** *med* (of the heart) to beat fast and irregularly **2** [(**with**)] *fml* (of a person or the body) to tremble: *He was positively palpitating with excitement.*

pal·pi·ta·tions /ˌpælpɪˈteɪʃənz/ *n* [P] *med* irregular or unusually fast beating of the heart, caused by illness, too much effort, etc.

pal·sied /ˈpɔːlzid/ *adj old use* weakened by or suffering from palsy: *The cup slipped from his palsied grasp.*

pal·sy /ˈpɔːlzi/ *n* [U] **1** *old use or med for* PARALYSIS **2** a disease causing trembling of limbs –see CEREBRAL PALSY

pal·sy-wal·sy /ˌpælzi ˈwælzi/ *adj infml* PALLY

pal·try /ˈpɔːltri/ *adj* **1** worthless or worthlessly small; DERISORY: *The management offered us a paltry 3% salary increase.* **2** showing a nasty or ungenerous character; PETTY (2): *What a paltry trick that was to play.*

pam·pas /ˈpæmpəz, -pəs/ *n* [(*the*) S] the large wide treeless plains in parts of South America

pampas grass /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] tall grass with sharp-edged blades and feathery silver-white flowers

pam·per /ˈpæmpəˠ/ *v* [T] to pay too much attention to making (someone) comfortable and happy; treat too kindly: *a pampered cat* | (fig.) *Pamper your skin with this new luxurious soap.*

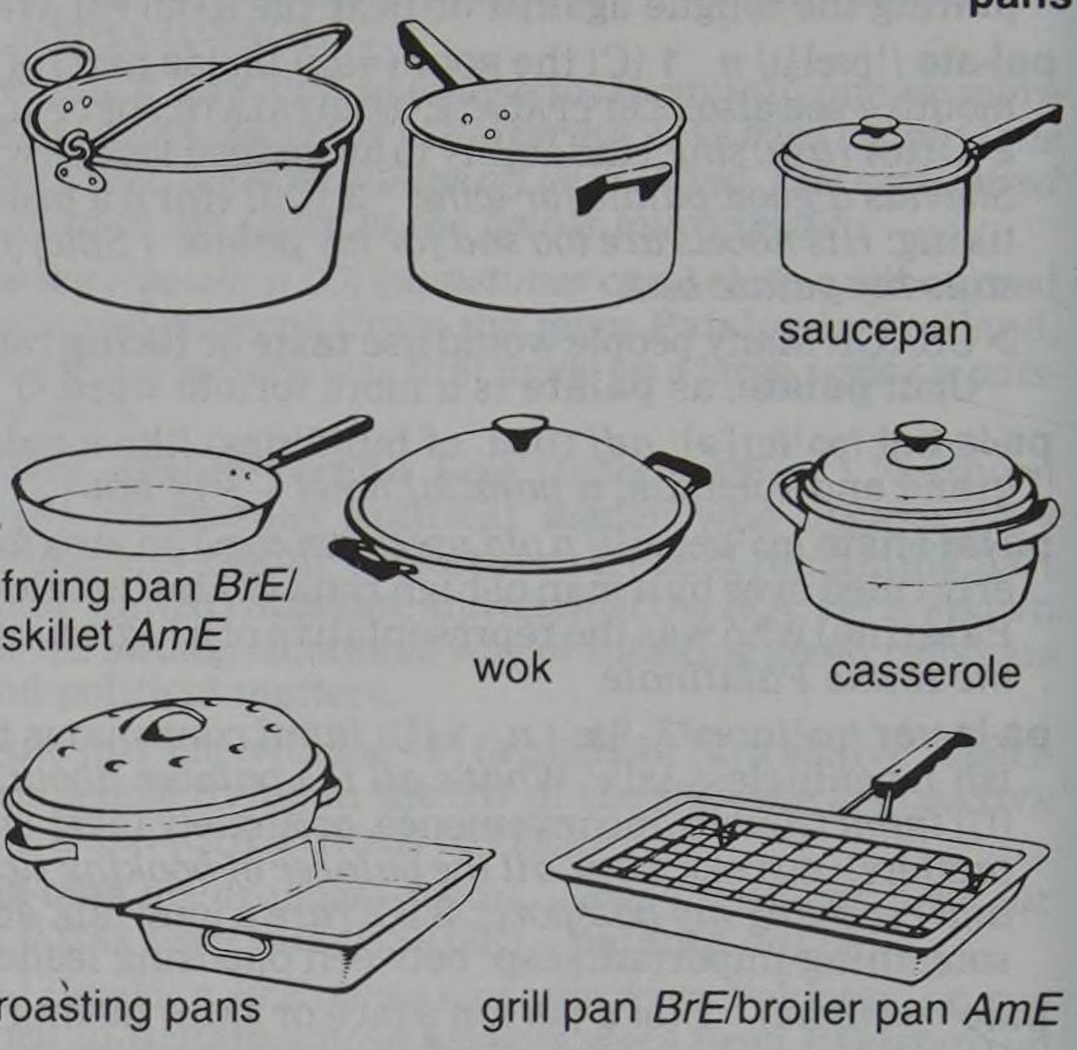
Pam·pers /ˈpæmpəz‖-pərz/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a type of DISPOSABLE NAPPY

pam·phlet /ˈpæmflɪt/ *n* a small thin book with paper covers, often dealing with a matter of public interest: *a political pamphlet*

pam·phle·teer /ˌpæmflɪˈtɪəˠ/ *n* a person who writes pamphlets, esp. political pamphlets

pan[1] /pæn/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a round metal container usu. with one long handle and sometimes with a lid, used esp. in cooking: *Cook the pasta in a large pan of boiling water.* | *a frying pan* –compare POT; see also SAUCEPAN

pans



2 either of the two dishes on a small weighing machine **3** *esp. BrE* the bowl of a LAVATORY **4** a container with holes or a wire net in the bottom used for separating precious metals, such as gold, from other substances by washing them in water **5 (go) down the pan** *BrE sl* (to become) no longer worth using or keeping –see also BEDPAN, DUSTPAN, SALTPAN, WARMING PAN, **flash in the pan** (FLASH[2])

pan[2] *v* **-nn-** **1** [I (**for**);T (OFF, OUT)] to wash (soil or GRAVEL) in a PAN[1] (4) looking for or trying to separate a precious metal **2** [T (OFF, OUT)] to get or separate (a precious metal) in this way **3** [T] *infml* to express a very unfavourable judgment of; CRITICIZE very severely: *His new play was really panned by the critics.*

pan out *phr v* [I *usu. in questions or negatives*] to happen in a particular way; develop, esp. successfully: *I thought it was a good idea, but now I don't think it will pan out.* | *I wonder how it will pan out.*

pan[3] *v* **-nn-** **1** [I;T] to move (a film or still camera) from side to side, up and down, etc., following action which is being recorded on film or television **2** [I] (of a camera) to be moved in this way: *The camera panned slowly across to the door.*

Pan in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the god of fields, forests, and SHEPHERDS. Pictures of Pan show him as a smiling, ugly man with goat's horns and legs, playing the PANPIPES, and ancient stories often mention his love affairs.

Pan, Peter see PETER PAN

pan- see WORD FORMATION

pan·a·cea /ˌpænəˈsɪə/ *n* [(**for**)] *often derog* **1** something that will put right all troubles: *Higher public spending is not a panacea for all our social problems.* **2** a medicine or other treatment that is supposed to cure any illness –compare NOSTRUM

pa·nache /pəˈnæʃ, pæ-/ *n* [U] *apprec* a stylish manner of doing things that causes admiration and seems to be without any difficulty: *With great panache he pulled the tablecloth off the table without disturbing any of the plates and glasses.*

pan·a·ma /ˌpænəˈmɑː◂, ˈpænəmɑː/ also **panama hat** /ˌ··· ˈ·/– *n* a lightweight hat for men made from the dried undeveloped leaves of a South American PALM tree –see picture at HAT

Panama a country on the **Istmus of Panama**, a narrow piece of land connecting Central and South America; capital Panama City; population 2,370,000 (1989). The official name of the country is the **Republic of Panama** and it is known for the **Panama Canal**, an artificial waterway crossing the country and connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. **–Panamanian** /ˌpænəˈmeɪniən◂/

Pan A·mer·i·can Games /ˌ· ·ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [P] a number of sports competitions which take place every four years in which the countries of South, Central, and North America take part –see also OLYMPIC GAMES

Pan·a·son·ic /ˌpænəˈsɒnɪk‖-ˈsɑː-/a Japanese maker of televisions, home electronic equipment etc.

pan·a·tel·a , -tella /ˌpænəˈtelə/ *n* a long thin CIGAR

pan·cake /ˈpæŋkeɪk/ *n* **1** ‖**crepe** *AmE*– a thin, soft, flat cake made of BATTER (=a mixture of flour, milk, and eggs), cooked in a flat pan, and usu. eaten hot, often with a sweet or SAVOURY filling **2** ‖ also **flapjack, hotcake** *AmE*– a similar but thicker cake that is often served in a pile with three or four others, usu. for breakfast. Pancakes are eaten with **maple syrup** (MAPLE), butter, or JAM.

Pancake Day /ˈ·· ·/ also **Pancake Tues·day** /ˌ·· ˈ··/– *n* [C;U] *BrE infml* the popular name for SHROVE TUESDAY, on which, according to custom, pancakes are eaten. In some places **pancake races** are held in which each runner has to carry a pancake in a FRYING PAN, throwing it into the air and catching it again as they run along.

pancake land·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a landing in which an aircraft drops flat to the ground from a low height, made usu. because it is in some trouble

pancake roll /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE for* SPRING ROLL

pan·cre·as /ˈpæŋkriəs/ *n* a part (GLAND) inside the body, near the stomach, which produces INSULIN and a liquid (**pancreatic juice** /ˌpæŋkriætɪk ˈdʒuːs/) that helps in changing food chemically for use by the body

pan·da /ˈpændə/ *n* **pandas** *or* **panda** **1** a GIANT PANDA **2** a small bearlike animal with red-brown fur and a long tail, found chiefly in the south-eastern Himalayas

Panda car /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a police car that is driven continuously through the streets of a town so that the police can look out for crimes (so called because it was originally painted black and white like a GIANT PANDA)

pan·dem·ic /pænˈdemɪk/ *adj, n med* (of) a disease which is widespread over a large area or among a population –compare ENDEMIC, EPIDEMIC

pan·de·mo·ni·um /ˌpændəˈməʊniəm/ *n* [U] a state of wild and noisy disorder: *There was sheer pandemonium in the dance hall when someone shouted "Fire!"*

pan·der /ˈpændəʳ/ *v*

pander to sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *derog* to provide something that satisfies (the unpleasant or undesirable wishes) of (a person or group): *The newspapers here pander to people's interest in sex scandals.* | *Don't pander to such people!*

pan·dit /ˈpʌndət, ˈpæn-/ *n (often cap.)* (used in India as) a title of respect for a wise man: *Pandit Nehru*

P & O /ˌpiː ənd ˈəʊ/ a British shipping and TRANSPORT company known esp. for its comfortable CRUISE ships, esp. in the 1920s, and now for its ferries (FERRY)

Pan·do·ra's box /pænˌdɔːrəz ˈbɒks‖-ˈbɑːks/ *n* **open Pandora's box** to unintentionally cause, by taking some action, a large number of problems that did not exist or were not known about before. In CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, Pandora opened the box containing all the world's evils.

p & p *written abbrev. for:* postage and packing (PACKING (2))

pane /peɪn/ *n* a single sheet of glass for use in a frame, esp. of a window

pan·e·gyr·ic /ˌpænəˈdʒɪrɪk/ *n* [(**on, upon**)] *fml* a speech or piece of writing praising someone or something highly, perhaps too highly

pan·el[1] /ˈpænl/ *n* **1** a separate usu. four-sided division of the surface of a door, wall, or other structure, which is different in some way to the surface round it **2** a board on which controls or instruments of various kinds are fixed: *an aircraft's control panel* **3** [+*sing.*/*pl. v*] **a** a group of people with special skills who are chosen to perform a particular service: *a panel of experts*/*advisers* **b** a group of usu. well-known speakers or entertainers who answer questions to inform or amuse the public, usu. on a radio or television show: *a panel game* | *What does*/*do the panel think?* –see also PANELLIST **4** a piece of cloth of a different colour or material, set in an article of clothing **5** a thin board with a picture painted on it –see also SOLAR PANEL

panel[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T (**in, with**)] to decorate with PANELS[1] (1): *a panelled room* | *The walls were panelled in*/*with oak.*

pan·el·ling *BrE* ‖ **paneling** *AmE* /ˈpænəl-ɪŋ/ *n* [U] PANELS[1] (1): *oak panelling*

pan·el·list *BrE* ‖ **panelist** *AmE* /ˈpænəl-ɪst/ *n* a member of a PANEL[1] (3b)

pan·el pin /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a short thin type of nail used for fastening thin pieces of wood together

pang /pæŋ/ *n* [(**of**)] a sudden sharp feeling of pain: *pangs of hunger* | *She left her children with a pang of regret.*

Pan·gae·a /pænˈdʒiːə/ the very large mass of land that existed as the only land on earth before it broke apart and started to form the CONTINENTS as they exist today –see also LAURASIA, GONDWANALAND

pan·han·dle[1] /ˈpænˌhændl/ *n esp. AmE* a thin stretch of land joined to a larger area like the handle of a pan

panhandle[2] *v* [I] *AmE infml* to beg, esp. in the streets **–-dler** *n*

pan·ic[1] /ˈpænɪk/ *n* **1** [C. *usu. sing.*;U] (a state of) sudden uncontrollable quickly-spreading terror or anxiety: *The audience were thrown into a panic when the fire started.* | *She got into a panic when she thought she'd forgotten the tickets.* | *Panic spread quickly on the Stock Exchange, and millions of pounds were knocked off the value of shares.* | *panic selling* (=done is a state of panic) **2** [S] *AmE old fash, sl* a very funny thing; SCREAM[2] (2) **3 push the ˈpanic button** *infml* to take quick, often careless or violent action as the result of a sudden unexpected and possibly dangerous situation

panic[2] *v* **-ck-** [I (**at**);T] to (cause to) feel panic: *Don't panic!* | *The crowd panicked at the sound of the explosion.* | *The thunder panicked the horses.* | *a crisis that panicked the government into taking rash measures*

pan·ic·ky /ˈpænɪki/ *adj infml* (resulting from) feeling sudden great fear

panic sta·tions /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a state of confused anxiety because something needs to be done in a hurry

panic-strick·en /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *adj* filled with panic

pan·jan·drum /pænˈdʒændrəm/ *n humor* a powerful person, esp. one who has a high opinion of his/her own importance

Pank·hurst /ˈpæŋkhɜːst‖-hɜːrst/, **Mrs Em·me·line** /ˈeməliːn/ (1858–1928) a famous member of the British SUFFRAGETTES, who fought for women's rights, esp. the vote. She was put in prison many times for her actions. Her daughters, **Christobel** and **Sylvia**, were also suffragettes and worked for the rights of poor women.

pan·ni·er /ˈpæniəʳ/ *n* a basket, esp. **a** either of a pair carried by a horse, on a bicycle, etc. **b** one used to carry a load on a person's back

pan·ni·kin /ˈpænɪkɪn/ *n BrE & AustrE old-fash* (the amount held by) a small metal drinking cup

pan·o·ply /ˈpænəpli/ *n* [U] splendid ceremonial show or dress: *the whole panoply of a royal funeral* **–-plied** *adj*

pan·o·ra·ma /ˌpænəˈrɑːmə‖-ˈræmə/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a complete view of a wide stretch of land: *a breathtaking panorama from the top of the hill* **2** a general representation in words or pictures: *This book gives a panorama of life in England 400 years ago.* **–-mic** /-ˈræmɪk◂/ *adj*: *From here you get a panoramic view of the whole valley.* **–-mically** /kli/ *adv*

Panorama **1** a British television programme about politics and current affairs, esp. matters which cause disagreement, broadcast weekly on BBC1 **2** an American television programme which includes serious discussions, usu. about current affairs

pan·pipes /ˈpænpaɪps/ *n* [P] a simple musical instrument made of a number of short pipes and played by blowing across their open ends (from Pan, in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Greek god who is supposed to have invented them)

pan·sy /ˈpænzi/ *n* **1** a small garden plant with wide flat flowers in many different colours **2** *infml derog* **a** an EFFEMINATE young man **b** *old-fash, offensive* a male HOMOSEXUAL

pant[1] /pænt/ *v* **1** [I] to breathe quickly, taking short breaths, esp. after great effort or in great heat: *He stood panting at the top of the stairs.* **2** [T (OUT)] to say while panting: *She panted out her message and then collapsed.* **3** [I (**for**)] *esp. lit* to have a strong eager desire; YEARN: *She was panting for a chance to speak.*

pant[2] *n* a short quick breath –see also PANTS

pan·ta·loons /ˌpæntəˈluːnz/ *n* [P] men's close-fitting trousers worn in former times –see PAIR (USAGE)

pan·tech·ni·con /pænˈteknɪkən‖-kɑːn/ *n BrE old-fash* a very large VAN, esp. a REMOVAL VAN

pan·the·is·m /ˈpænθi-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the religious idea that God and the universe are the same thing and that God is present in all natural things **2** belief in and worship of all gods known to a society **–-ist** *n* **–-istic** /ˌpænθi-ˈɪstɪk◂/ *adj* : *pantheistic religions*

pan·the·on /ˈpænθiən‖-θiɑːn/ *n* **1** all the gods of a society or nation thought of together: *Mars, Jupiter, and Vulcan were gods of the Roman pantheon.* **2** a temple built in honour of all gods **3** a building in which the famous dead of a nation are buried and/or given honour

pan·ther /ˈpænθəʳ/ *n* **panthers** *or* **panther** **1** a LEOPARD, esp. a black one **2** *AmE for* COUGAR *or* JAGUAR

pan·ties /ˈpæntiz/ also **pants** *BrE‖usu.* **underpants, underwear** *AmE– n* [P] a short undergarment worn below the waist by women and girls; KNICKERS (*BrE*) – see PAIR (USAGE); compare UNDERPANTS

pan·tile /ˈpæntaɪl/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a TILE (=a piece of baked clay) shaped as a double curve, used in making roofs

pan·to·graph /ˈpæntəgrɑːf‖-græf/ *n* **1** an instrument used to make a smaller or larger exact copy of a drawing, plan, etc. **2** the metal structure on top of an electric railway engine for gathering power from the wires hung above the line

pan·to·mime /ˈpæntəmaɪm/ *n* **1** [C;U] also **pan·to** /ˈpæntəʊ/*BrE infml*– a kind of British play for children, usu. performed at Christmas, with music, humorous songs, etc.

►CULTURAL NOTE Pantomimes are based on TRADITIONAL stories such as *Cinderella*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Aladdin*, and *Peter Pan*. The chief male character, called the **Principal Boy**, is played by a young woman. There is also usu. an ugly old woman, the **Dame**, played by a man, who is meant to be very funny, and a comic animal such as the pantomime horse. The children are encouraged to join in the songs, to shout out to the actors, and to give warning when the bad characters appear, although the good characters pretend not to believe them: *"I haven't seen the villain. Do you know where he is, children?" "Behind you!" "Oh no he isn't!" "O yes he is!"* Most towns and cities have a pantomime of some kind at Christmas. In large towns and cities it may be performed for several weeks before and after Christmas, and famous singers, COMEDIANS, and celebrities (CELEBRITY) may take part. –see picture at WIDOW TWANKEY◄

2 [U] MIME¹ (1,2)

pantomime horse /ˈ··· ·/ *n BrE* an artificial horse which appears esp. in pantomimes and is operated by two people. One person's legs become the front legs, and the other person's legs become the back legs of the horse.



pantomime horse

pan·try /ˈpæntri/ *n* **1** a small room in a house, with shelves and cupboards for keeping food; LARDER **2** a room in a big house, hotel, ship, etc., where glasses, dishes, spoons, etc., are kept

pants /pænts/ *n* [P] **1** *BrE for* PANTIES *or* UNDERPANTS **2** *esp. AmE* trousers **3 put one's pants on one leg at a time** *AmE infml* to be an ordinary person: *He puts his pants on one leg at a time, just like we do – go ahead, ask him for his autograph!* **4 with one's ˈpants down** *humor* awkwardly unprepared –see also **beat the pants off someone** (BEAT¹), **by the seat of one's pants** (SEAT¹); see PAIR (USAGE)

pant·suit /ˈpæntsuːt, -sjuːt‖-suːt/ *n AmE for* TROUSER SUIT

panty hose /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [P] *esp. AmE for* TIGHTS (1) which are flesh-coloured and SHEER (=can be seen through)

pan·ty·lin·er /ˈpæntilaɪnəʳ/ *n* a small SANITARY TOWEL which has a band of sticky material on the back, which sticks to the inside of a woman's pants

pan·zer /ˈpænzəʳ/ *n* (*sometimes cap.*) a German TANK (2) or similar armoured vehicle: *a Panzer regiment*

pap /pæp/ *n* **1** [S;U] *often derog* soft almost liquid food, esp. for babies or sick people **2** [U] *derog, esp. AmE* reading matter or entertainment intended only for amusement, which does not instruct or contain ideas of any value: *I don't know how you can watch all that pap on the television.*

pap·a¹ /ˈpɑːpə/ also **poppa**– *n AmE infml* a father (used esp. in the South)

pa·pa² /pəˈpɑː/ *n BrE old use* a father: *Good morning, Papa.*

pa·pa·cy /ˈpeɪpəsi/ *n* **1** [*the*+S] the power and office of the POPE **2** [C] the time during which a particular pope holds office

Papa Doc /ˌpɑːpə ˈdɒk‖-ˈdɑːk/ , also **Papa Doc Du·val·i·er** /ˌ·· · ·ˈ···/– another name for François Duvalier (DUVALIER)

pap·a·dum /ˈpæpədəm‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* a POPADUM

pa·pal /ˈpeɪpəl/ *adj* of the POPE or the papacy: *papal authority | the papal legate*

Pap·an·dre·ou /ˌpæpənˈdreɪ-uː/, **An·dre·as** /ænˈdreɪəs/ (1919–) a Greek Socialist politician, Prime Minister from 1981 to 1989

pap·a·raz·zo /ˌpæpəˈrætsəʊ/ *n* **-zi** /si/ a newspaper writer or photographer who follows famous people about hoping to find out interesting or shocking stories about them

pa·pa·ya /pəˈpaɪə/ also **pawpaw** *esp. BrE & CarE– n* the large yellow-green fruit of a tall tropical tree –see picture at FRUIT

pa·per¹ /ˈpeɪpəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] a material in the form of thin flat sheets used esp. for writing or printing on, and also for covering parcels, decorating walls, etc., and made from very thin threads of wood or cloth: *a piece|sheet of paper | You write letters on writing paper. | a paper bag | a paper handkerchief | a brown paper parcel* **2** [C] a newspaper: *Have you seen today's paper? | It was in all the papers. | She works as a reporter on the local paper.* **3** [C] also **examination paper** *fml*– a set of printed questions used as an examination in a particular subject: *The history paper was really easy.* **4** *AmE* a piece of writing which is part of the work required for school, university, or another course of study: *I can't go out this weekend. I have a paper to write on the Civil War.* **5** [C (**on**)] a piece of writing for specialists, often read aloud: *At this year's conference, the professor will be giving|reading a paper on her latest research.* **6** [C;U] WALLPAPER **7** TOILET PAPER **8 not worth the paper it is printed/written on** (of something written, such as a contract) completely worthless **9 on paper** as written down or printed, but not yet tested by experience; in THEORY: *The plans look good on paper, but there is no guarantee that they will work.* –see also DAILY PAPER, PAPERS, GREEN PAPER, WHITE PAPER, **put pen to paper** (PEN¹)

paper² *v* [T] **1** [(**in, with**)] to cover (a wall) or the walls of (a room) with WALLPAPER: *This room needs papering.| She papered the room green|in green|with green paper.* **2** [(OVER, UP)] to hide (disagreements or difficulties) quickly or imperfectly, in order to provide an appearance of agreement, etc. (often in the phrase **paper over the cracks**)

paper³ *adj* [A] *often derog* existing only as an idea; unreal: *paper profits | paper promises*

pa·per·back /ˈpeɪpəbæk‖-pər-/ *n* a book with a thin cardboard cover. Paperbacks are usu. cheaper than books with hard covers, and many books are produced with hard covers first and only later in paperback form: *This bookshop only sells paperbacks. | a paperback novel | Has this book come out* **in paperback** *yet?* –compare HARDBACK

pa·per·boy /ˈpeɪpəbɔɪ‖-ər-/ **pa·per·girl** /-gɜːl‖-gɜːrl/*fem.*– *n* a young person who delivers newspapers to people's houses, usu. before going to school

paper chase /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a race across open country in which a runner drops pieces of paper which others, running some distance behind, follow

paper clip /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small piece of curved wire used for holding sheets of paper together

pa·per·hang·er /ˈpeɪpəˌhæŋəʳ‖-pər-/ *n* a person whose job is to stick WALLPAPER on the inside walls of a room

paper knife /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **letter opener** *AmE– n* a knife that is only slightly sharp, usu. used for opening envelopes

paper mon·ey /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] money in the form of NOTES (=small sheets of paper), rather than coins

paper round /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a job, usu. done by children, delivering newspapers to a group of houses **2** the particular group of houses delivered to

pa·pers /ˈpeɪpəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] **1** pieces of paper with writing on them: *I think I've left my papers on the table.* **2** official pieces of paper with writing on them, esp. that one carries to show who or what one is; DOCUMENTS: *naturalization papers* | *"Can I see your papers, please?" said the policeman.*

paper shop /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *BrE*‖**newsstand** *AmE*– *n* a shop selling newspapers and usu. sweets, cigarettes, and other similar things; a NEWSAGENT

paper ti·ger /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n derog* an enemy that seems or wishes to seem powerful or threatening, but is really not so

paper tow·el /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* **1** a small square of thick paper used for drying one's hands, usu. in a public toilet **2** KITCHEN ROLL

pa·per·ware /ˈpeɪpəweəʳ‖-pər-/ *n* [U] plates, cups, etc. made of thick paper and intended to be thrown away after use: *a colourful range of picnic paperware*

pa·per·weight /ˈpeɪpəweɪt‖-ər-/ *n* a heavy object placed on top of loose papers to keep them from being scattered

pa·per·work /ˈpeɪpəwɜːk‖-pərwɜːrk/ *n* [U] regular work of writing reports, letters, keeping records, lists, etc., esp. as a less important part of a job: *I've finished the job, but I've still got to catch up on the paperwork.*

pa·per·y /ˈpeɪpəri/ *adj* thin or stiff like paper: *dry papery skin*

pa·pi·er-mâ·ché /ˌpæpieɪ ˈmæʃeɪ, ˌpeɪpə-‖ˌpeɪpər məˈʃeɪ/ *n* [U] paper boiled into a soft mass, mixed with a stiffening substance, and used for making boxes, models, etc.

pa·pist /ˈpeɪpɨst/ *n derog* a member of the Roman Catholic Church

pa·poose /pəˈpuːs‖pæ-/ *n* **1** a young child of Native American parents **2** a sort of bag fixed to a frame, used for carrying a baby on a person's back

pap·py /ˈpæpi/ *n AmE infml, esp. dial* a father

pap·ri·ka /ˈpæprɪkə‖pəˈpriːkə/ *n* [U] a red powder made from a type of SWEET PEPPER and used in cooking to give a special hot taste to food

Pap smear /ˈ· ·/ also **Pap test**– *n AmE for* SMEAR TEST

Pap·u·a New Guin·ea /ˌpæpuə njuː ˈgɪni‖ˌpæpjuə nuː-/ an independent country in the SW Pacific Ocean, N of Australia, including the eastern half of the island of New Guinea, and various small islands; capital Port Moresby; population 3,593,000 (1989) –**Papua New Guinean**

Pap·worth Hos·pi·tal /ˌpæpwəθ ˈhɒspɪtl‖-wərθ ˈhɑː-/ a hospital near Cambridge, E England, which specializes in heart TRANSPLANT[2] (1) operations

pa·py·rus /pəˈpaɪərəs/ *n* **-ruses** *or* **-ri** /raɪ/ **1** [U] a grass-like water plant formerly common in Egypt, used in ancient times esp. for making paper **2** [U] a type of paper made from this plant **3** [C] a piece of ancient writing on this paper

par[1] /pɑːʳ/ *n* **1** [S] a level which is equal or almost the same; PARITY: *As far as size goes, these two cities are* **on a par (with** *each other*). (=are equally big) **2** [U] *infml* the usual or average standard or condition (of health, activity, etc.): *I'm feeling a bit* **below/under par** (=slightly unwell) *today.* | *Your latest piece of work isn't* **up to par.** (=is not as good as usual) | (*humor*) *The train was 20 minutes late again today – which I suppose is about* **par for the course.** (=what can be expected to happen) **3** [U] also **par value**– the original value written on a share of ownership in a business: *He bought the shares* **at par** *and sold them* **above par,** *making a profit.* **4** [U] (in GOLF) the number of strokes a good player should take to hit the ball into a hole or all of the holes

par[2] also **par·a** /ˈpærə/– *abbrev. for:* PARAGRAPH

para- see WORD FORMATION

par·a·ble /ˈpærəbəl/ *n* a short simple story which teaches a moral or religious lesson, esp a story from the Bible

pa·rab·o·la /pəˈræbələ/ *n tech* a curve like the line made by a ball when it is thrown high in the air to a person some distance away –**-lic** /ˌpærəˈbɒlɪk◂‖-ˈbɑː-/ *adj* –**-lically** /kli/ *adv*

par·a·ce·ta·mol /ˌpærəˈsiːtəmɒl‖-mɑːl/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* an important and common drug for killing pain, reducing headaches, etc. which does not contain ASPIRIN

par·a·chute[1] /ˈpærəʃuːt/ *n* a large usu. circular piece of cloth fastened by thin ropes to people or objects that are dropped from aircraft in order to make them fall slowly: *a parachute jump* –see also PARATROOPER

parachute[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) drop from an aircraft by means of a parachute: *We parachuted to safety.* | *They parachuted behind enemy lines.* | *We parachuted the supplies to them.*

par·a·chut·ist /ˈpærəʃuːtɨst/ *n* a person who drops from an aircraft using a parachute

pa·rade[1] /pəˈreɪd/ *n* **1** a public procession: *The Olympic Games began with a parade of all the competing nations.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Parades are a regular feature of American celebrations from the smallest towns to the biggest cities. They usu. include MARCHING BANDS, MAJORETTES, FLOATS[2] (3), and well-known people who ride in big cars waving and smiling.◄

2 a ceremonial gathering together of soldiers for the purpose of being officially looked at: *The general inspected the parade.* | *The soldiers are* **on parade** *today.* **3** *often derog* an act of showing one's skill, knowledge, feelings, etc., with the intention of attracting people's attention or gaining admiration: *I hate the way he* **makes a parade of** *his knowledge.* **4** *esp. BrE* (*written abbrev.* **Pde**) a row of local shops in an area consisting mainly of houses

parade[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk in a public procession: *The circus paraded through the town to advertise its forthcoming performance.* **2** [I;T] to gather or cause (soldiers) to gather together in a PARADE[1] (2): *Parade the men, sergeant-major!* **3** [I+*adv/prep*;T] *often derog* to walk about in (a room or area) with the aim of attracting attention or admiration: *She paraded (through) the corridors in her new dress.* | (fig.) *old ideas parading as the latest information* **4** [T] *often derog* to show publicly in order to attract attention or admiration; FLAUNT: *He is always parading his knowledge/his wealth.*

parade ground /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a large flat area where soldiers PARADE[2] (2)

par·a·digm /ˈpærədaɪm/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] *fml* a very clear or typical example of something **2** *tech* an example or pattern of a word, showing all its forms in grammar: *"Child, child's, children, children's" is a paradigm.*

par·a·dig·mat·ic /ˌpærədɪgˈmætɪk◂/ *adj tech or fml* of, like, or by means of a paradigm – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

par·a·dise /ˈpærədaɪs/ *n* **1** [U] (*usu. cap.*) Heaven **2** [U] (*usu. cap.*) (in the Bible) the Garden of Eden, home of the first humans Adam and Eve **3** [U] a place, state, or condition of perfect happiness: *It's sheer paradise to relax in a hot bath after a hard day's work.* **4** [S] *infml* a favourite place in which there is everything needed for a particular activity: *These forests are a hunter's paradise.* (=there are lots of animals for them to shoot) –see also BIRD OF PARADISE, FOOL'S PARADISE

Paradise Lost /ˌ··· ˈ·/ a long poem by John Milton telling the story of Adam and Eve. A later poem, which continued the story, was called **Paradise Regained**

par·a·dox /ˈpærədɒks‖-dɑːks/ *n* **1** a statement which seems impossible, because it says two opposite things, but which has some truth in it: *"More haste, less speed" is a paradox.* **2** an improbable combination of opposing qualities, ideas, etc.: *It is a paradox that in such a rich country there should be so many poor people.* –compare IRONY – ~**ical** /ˌpærəˈdɒksɪkəl◂‖-ˈdɑːk-/ *adj*

par·a·dox·i·cally /ˌpærəˈdɒksɪkli‖-ˈdɑːk-/ *adv* **1** in a paradoxical way **2** it is a paradox that: *Paradoxically (enough), the faster he tried to finish, the longer it seemed to take him.* –compare IRONICALLY

par·af·fin /ˈpærəfɨn/ *n* [U] **1** *BrE* ‖ **kerosene** *AmE*– an oil made from PETROLEUM, coal, etc., burnt for heat and in lamps for light **2** also **paraffin wax** /ˌ··· ˈ·/– a soft white substance obtained from PETROLEUM, coal, etc., used esp. in making candles

par·a·gon /ˈpærəgən‖-gɑːn/ *n* [(**of**)] a person or thing that is or seems to be a perfect model to copy: *He behaves as if he were a* **paragon of virtue,** *but I could tell you a thing or two about him!*

par·a·graph /ˈpærəgrɑːf‖-græf/ *n* **1** a division of a piece

of writing which is made up of one or more sentences and begins a new line **2** a short news report in a newspaper

Par·a·guay /ˈpærəgwaɪ/ a country in S central South America, bordering on Bolivia to the N and W, Brazil to the E, and Argentina to the S and W; capital Asunción; population 4,157,000 (1989) —**Parguayan** /ˌpærəˈgwaɪən◂/

par·a·keet /ˈpærəkiːt/ *n* a kind of small PARROT, usu. with a long tail, found in tropical countries

par·a·le·gal /ˌpærəˈliːgəl◂/ *n AmE* someone who does legal work but who is not a lawyer

par·al·lel[1] /ˈpærəlel/ *adj* **1** (of two or more lines or rows) running side by side but never getting nearer to or further away from each other **2** [(**to, with**)] (of one line or row) running side by side with another line but never getting nearer to or further away from it: *Draw a line parallel to/with this one.* | *The railway line runs parallel to/with the road.* **3** [(**to**)] of the same type and happening or done at the same time; CORRESPONDING: *As well as the inquiry in London, there is a parallel investigation going on in New York into the cause of the disaster.*

parallel[2] *n* **1** [C (**to, with**)] a parallel line or surface **2** [C (**to, with**);U] a person or thing that is closely similar or comparable to another person or thing: *The doctor knew of no parallel to his patient's case, and was unsure what treatment to prescribe.* | *Such disgraceful behaviour is* **without parallel** *in my experience.* (=I have never heard of any so bad) **3** [C (**between, with**)] (a point of) similarity: *There are some interesting parallels between the educational systems of these two countries.* | *The present famine is almost* **on a parallel** *with the disastrous one of ten years ago.* (=is almost as bad, severe, etc.) **4** [C (**between**)] a comparison that shows similarity: *She* **drew a parallel** *between the events leading up to the previous war and the current political situation.* **5** [C] also **parallel of lat·i·tude** /ˌ··· · ˈ···/— any of a number of lines on a map drawn parallel to the EQUATOR: *the 49th parallel* **6 in parallel** *tech* (of a number of electrical apparatuses) connected between two points in such a way that each may receive electrical power whether or not the others are being used —compare **in series** (SERIES)

parallel[3] *v* **-l-** ‖ also **-ll-** *BrE* [T] **1** to be similar to: *Your experience parallels my own.* **2** *fml* to equal; match: *a level of economic prosperity that has been paralleled by few other countries* —see also UNPARALLELED

parallel bars /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*) P] a pair of parallel bars supported by four upright posts, used for swinging on to exercise the body

par·al·lel·is·m /ˈpærəlelɪzəm/ *n* **1** [U] the state or quality of being PARALLEL[1] (1,3) **2** [C] *fml* a point of similarity; PARALLEL[2] (3)

par·al·lel·o·gram /ˌpærəˈleləgræm/ *n* a flat four-sided shape with opposite sides equal and parallel —see picture at QUADRILATERAL

parallel pro·ces·sing /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* [U] a very efficient method of using a computer, which uses a lot of PROCESSORS working together at the same time, instead of one after the other

par·a·lyse *BrE* ‖ **-lyze** *AmE* /ˈpærəlaɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to cause paralysis to: *After the accident she was paralysed from the waist down.* | (fig.) *He stood paralysed by fear.* **2** to make ineffective; cause to stop working: *The electricity failure paralysed the train service.*

pa·ral·y·sis /pəˈrælɨsɨs/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ [C;U] **1** (a) loss of feeling in, and loss of control of, all or some of the body muscles: *The disease can cause temporary paralysis of the arm.* **2** (a) loss or lack of ability to move, operate, think, etc.: *The transport strike caused total paralysis in the capital.*

par·a·lyt·ic[1] /ˌpærəˈlɪtɪk◂/ *adj* **1** suffering from paralysis **2** *infml, esp. BrE* very drunk —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

paralytic[2] *n* a paralysed person

par·a·med·ic /ˌpærəˈmedɪk/ *n esp. AmE* someone, such as an AMBULANCE driver, who is trained to help in the care of sick people but is not a doctor or nurse

pa·ram·e·ter /pəˈræmɨtəʳ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of the established limits within which something must operate: *There is plenty of scope for experimentation, provided we remain within the parameters of the budget.*

par·a·mil·i·tary /ˌpærəˈmɪlɨtri◂‖-teri◂/ *adj* **1** connected with and helping a regular military force: *In some countries the police have paramilitary duties.* **2** like a regular military force, or intended for use as an irregular military force, esp. illegally: *the paramilitary organizations of Northern Ireland*

par·a·mount /ˈpærəmaʊnt/ *adj fml* greater than all others in importance or influence; PRIMARY: *This matter is of paramount importance.* | *The interests of the consumer should be paramount.* —~**cy** *n* [U]

Paramount a film company (STUDIO) in Hollywood, California

par·a·mour /ˈpærəmʊəʳ/ *n lit or old use* a lover, esp. a MISTRESS (2) —compare INAMORATA

par·a·noi·a /ˌpærəˈnɔɪə/ *n* [U] **1** a serious disease of the mind in which the sufferer believes that he or she is hated and being purposely mistreated, or is a person of great power or importance **2** *infml* an unreasonable lack of trust in other people, sometimes amounting to fear

par·a·noi·ac /ˌpærəˈnɔɪæk◂/ also **pa·ra·no·ic** /-ˈnɔɪ-ɪk◂/— *adj, n* (of or being) a person suffering from paranoia —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

par·a·noid /ˈpærənɔɪd/ *adj* (as if) suffering from paranoia: *My father locks every door and window in the house — he's paranoid about being robbed.*

par·a·nor·mal /ˌpærəˈnɔːməl◂‖-ˈnɔːr-/ *adj* impossible to explain by science; SUPERNATURAL

par·a·pet /ˈpærəpɨt, -pet/ *n* **1** a low wall at the edge of a roof, bridge, etc. **2** a protective wall of earth or stone built in front of the TRENCHes used by soldiers in war

par·a·pher·na·li·a /ˌpærəfəˈneɪliə‖-fər-/ *n* **1** [U] small articles of various kinds, esp. personal belongings or those needed for a particular activity; usu. used of things which are complicated or many in number: *I keep all my photographic paraphernalia in that cupboard.* **2** [S] *infml, esp. BrE* unwanted, annoying, or difficult activity, esp. that is necessary for doing or getting something; PALAVER: *all the paraphernalia of getting a new passport* **3** *AmE* the things used in taking illegal drugs, such as pipes, containers, etc.: *In some states it is not illegal to sell (drug) paraphernalia.*

par·a·phrase /ˈpærəfreɪz/ *n* [(**of**)] a re-statement in different words of (something written or said), esp. in words that are easier to understand —**paraphrase** *v* [T]

par·a·ple·gi·a /ˌpærəˈpliːdʒiə, -dʒə/ *n* [U] PARALYSIS of the lower part of the body, including both legs

par·a·ple·gic /ˌpærəˈpliːdʒɪk◂/ *n, adj* (a person) suffering from paraplegia

par·a·psy·chol·o·gy /ˌpærəsaɪˈkɒlədʒi‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of PSYCHIC powers, such as the ability to see into the future, to see into another person's mind, etc.

par·a·quat /ˈpærəkwɒt‖-kwɑːt/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a very powerful liquid poison used to kill unwanted plants. In the US, paraquat is remembered for having been used on CANNABIS plants by the government, which led to cannabis users being poisoned.

par·as /ˈpærəz/ *n* [(*the*) P] *BrE infml for* PARATROOPS

par·a·site /ˈpærəsaɪt/ *n* [(**on, of**)] **1** a plant or animal that lives on or in another and gets food from it: *The mistletoe plant is a parasite on/of trees.* **2** *derog* a useless person who is supported by the generosity or efforts of others

par·a·sit·ic /ˌpærəˈsɪtɪk◂/ also **par·a·sit·i·cal** /-ɪkəl/— *adj* **1** [(**on**)] of, like, or being a parasite: *a parasitic plant* **2** caused by a parasite: *a parasitic disease* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

par·a·sol /ˈpærəsɒl‖-sɔːl, -sɑːl/ *n* a SUNSHADE

par·a·thy·roid /ˌpærəˈθaɪrɔɪd/ also **parathyroid gland** /··ˈ·· ˌ·/— *n* any of four small bodily parts (GLANDS) in the throat which control the use of two chemicals, CALCIUM and PHOSPHORUS, by the body

par·a·troop·er /ˈpærəˌtruːpəʳ/ *n* a soldier trained to drop from an aircraft using a PARACHUTE

par·a·troops /ˈpærətruːps/ *n* [P] paratroopers, esp. as formed into a military unit to fight together

par·a·ty·phoid /ˌpærəˈtaɪfɔɪd/ *n* [U] a disease that attacks the bowels, and is very similar to, but less serious than, TYPHOID

par·boil /ˈpɑːbɔɪl‖ˈpɑːr-/ *v* [T] to boil until partly cooked

par·cel[1] /ˈpɑːsəl‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** *esp. BrE* ‖ also **package** *esp. AmE*– a thing or collection of things wrapped in paper and tied or fastened in some other way for easy carrying, posting, etc.: *She tied up the parcel with string.* | *He undid/unwrapped the parcel.* | *a parcel of clothes* **2** *esp. law or AmE* a piece of land, esp. part of a larger piece that has been divided –compare PACKET; see also **part and parcel of** (PART[1])

parcel[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE*

parcel sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to divide into parts or shares for giving out

parcel sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to make into a parcel by wrapping and tying: *We parcelled up the clothes for Oxfam.*

Parcel Force /ˈ·· ˌ·/ a branch of the British postal service which deals with parcels: *A Parcel Force van drew up outside the house.*

parcel post /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] *BrE* the system or method of sending or carrying parcels by post

parch /pɑːtʃ‖pɑːrtʃ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become completely dry as a result of great heat: *The fierce sun had parched the landscape.* | *The plants will parch if the hot weather continues.* | *I'm parched; I could do with a drink!*

par·chee·si /pɑːˈtʃiːzi‖pɑːr-/ *n tdmk AmE for* LUDO

parch·ment /ˈpɑːtʃmənt‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] a writing material used esp. in ancient times, made from the skin of a sheep or goat: *The old man's skin was like parchment.* **2** [C] an ancient piece of writing on this material **3** [C;U] (an official piece of writing on) any of various types of paper of good quality

pard·ner /ˈpɑːdnəʳ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n AmE infml* partner, used as a greeting, often to someone you do not know: *Howdy, pardner!*

par·don[1] /ˈpɑːdn‖ˈpɑːrdn/ *n* **1** [C] an action of a court or ruler forgiving a person for an illegal act and giving freedom from punishment: *His pardon came through only three hours before he was due to be executed.* –see also FREE PARDON **2** [C;U (**for**)] *fml* (an act or example of) forgiving: *If I have offended you, I ask your pardon.* **3 Pardon my French** *infml, humor* (said before or after using bad or impolite language (SWEARing)): *The bloody car's broken down–pardon my French.* **4 I beg your pardon** also **Pardon** ˈ**me**– **a** *polite* Please excuse me (said when you accidentally touch or push someone) **b** also **Pardon** *infml*– (said with the voice rising at the end) I did not hear/understand what you said and would like you to repeat it **c** *polite* Please excuse me (said when one accidentally does something (e.g. BELCH noisily) that could be offensive to another person) **d** (said in a firm unfriendly voice) I'm afraid I think that what you have just said is not true or not acceptable –see EXCUSE (USAGE); see also **excuse me** (EXCUSE[1]);

pardon[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**for**)] to forgive or excuse: *Pardon my strong language.* [*+obj(i)+obj(d)*] *We must pardon him (for) his little outbursts of temper.* [*+obj+v-ing*] *Pardon me interrupting, but ...* | *It seems to me like a bit of a cock-up,* **if you'll pardon the expression.** (=excuse my use of this phrase) **2** to give an official pardon to or for **3 Pardon** ˈ**me** *polite* –see PARDON[1] (4)

par·don·a·ble /ˈpɑːdənəbəl‖ˈpɑːr-/ *adj* that can be forgiven: *a pardonable mistake/weakness* –opposite **unpardonable** –**-bly** *adv*

par·don·er /ˈpɑːdənəʳ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* (in former times) a person who went about the country selling official religious INDULGENCES (4)

pare /peəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** [(DOWN)] to cut away the thin outer covering, edge, or skin of (something), usu. with a sharp knife; PEEL: *to pare one's fingernails* | (fig.) *We must pare down* (=reduce) *costs to improve our profitability.* | *Spending on education has been* **pared to the bone.** (=reduced to the lowest possible level) **2** [(AWAY, OFF)] to cut away (the thin outer covering, edge, or skin of something), usu. with a sharp knife: *She pared off the apple peel.* –see also CHEESEPARING, PARING

par·ent /ˈpeərənt/ *n* **1** the father or mother of a person or animal: *my parents* | *Being a parent* (=having children) *can be hard work.* | *a single-parent family* | (fig.) *Our club is the parent organization, and there are now four others like it.* **2 to lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the play *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde –~**al** /pəˈrentl/ *adj* : *parental responsibilities* | *to get married without parental consent*

par·ent·age /ˈpeərəntɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the fact of being descended from particular parents: *a child of unknown parentage* (=we do not know who its parents are)

parent com·pa·ny /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a business company that controls one or more others

parent governor /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a person whose child attends a particular school, and who, with other people, has the power to make certain decisions about how the school is run

pa·ren·the·sis /pəˈrenθəsəs/ *n* **-theses** /θəsiːz/ **1** [*usu. pl.*] *BrE fml or AmE for* BRACKET[4] (2) **2** one or more words introduced as an added explanation or thought, and in writing usu. enclosed at both ends by a parenthesis, as in the following sentence: *This class (and I speak from long experience) is the worst I have ever known.*

par·en·thet·ic /ˌpærənˈθetɪk◂/ also **par·en·thet·i·cal** /-ɪkəl/– *adj* introduced as an added explanation or thought: *If I may add a few parenthetic remarks of a personal nature here ...* –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

par·ent·hood /ˈpeərənthʊd/ *n* [U] the state or condition of being a parent

par·ent·ing /ˈpeərəntɪŋ/ *n* [U] parental care of children: *the problems of parenting*

parent-teach·er as·so·ci·a·tion /ˌ·· ˈ·· ···ˌ··/ *n* see PTA

par ex·cel·lence /ˌpɑːr ˈeksəlɑːns‖-eksəˈlɑːns/ *adj* [after *n*] *Fr, apprec* without equal, as the best and/or most typical of its kind: *"Wuthering Heights" is surely the romantic novel par excellence.*

par·he·li·on /pɑːˈhiːliən‖pɑːr-/ *n* **-lia** /liə/ *tech* an image of the sun sometimes seen at the side of the sun at sunset

pa·ri·ah /pəˈraɪə, ˈpæriə‖pəˈraɪə/ *n fml derog* a person who is not accepted by society; social OUTCAST

par·i-mu·tu·el /ˌpæri ˈmjuːtjuəl‖-tʃuəl/ *n Fr* a system of risking money, esp. on a horse race, in which the money risked by the losers is taken and divided up among the winners

parimutuel ma·chine /··ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ *n AmE* TOTE[2] (1)

par·ing /ˈpeərɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] something thin that has been pared off (PARE (2)): *vegetable parings*

Par·is[1] /ˈpærɪs/ the capital city of France, in the N central part of the country on the River Seine, often thought of as a city for lovers and honeymooners (HONEYMOON[2]) –see also EIFFEL TOWER, LEFT BANK, MONTMARTRE

Paris[2] in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a prince of Troy who took Helen away from Greece, causing the Trojan War, and who killed Achilles in this war

Paris-Dak·ar Ral·ly /ˌpærɪs ˈdækɑː ˌræli‖-dəˈkɑːr-/ [*the*] a motor race over public roads from Paris, France to Dakar, Senegal, including the crossing of the Sahara Desert. The Paris-Dakar Rally is open to all kinds of motor vehicles.

par·ish /ˈpærɪʃ/ *n* **1** (esp. in the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches) an area in the care of a single priest and served by one main church: *a parish priest* –see also PAROCHIAL **2 a** also **civil parish**– (in England) a small area, esp. a village, having its own local government; the smallest unit of local government **b** (in the American state of Louisiana) COUNTY[1]: *Vermilion Parish* **3** *infml, esp. BrE* an area of knowledge or work that is the special responsibility of a particular person

Parish, Max·field /ˈmæksfiːld/ (1870–1966) an American artist famous for his ILLUSTRATIONS (=pictures in book), which are ROMANTIC and colourful and show light in a slightly SURREAL way

parish church /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the main church in a PARISH (1)

parish clerk /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a church official in a PARISH (1) who performs various duties in or for the church

parish coun·cil /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* in Britain, a group of elected people which manages the affairs of a PARISH (2**a**), but has not as much power as a DISTRICT COUNCIL

pa·rish·io·ner /pəˈrɪʃənəʳ/ *n* a person living in a particular PARISH (1), esp. one who regularly attends the parish church

parish-pump /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] *BrE, often derog* of local interest only: *parish-pump politics*

parish re·gis·ter /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a large book, or a number of

books, in which are written details of all the births, deaths, and marriages in a parish

Pa·ris·i·an /pəˈrɪziən‖pəˈrɪʒən, -ˈriː-/ *n, adj* (a person) of or from Paris

par·i·ty /ˈpærɨti/ *n* **1** [U (**with**)] the state or quality of being equal, e.g. in level, position, amount, etc.: *We have worked hard to achieve parity with our commercial competitors.* **2** *tech* a system by which computer DATA (=stored information) sent from one place to another can be tested for mistakes

park[1] /pɑːk‖pɑːrk/ *n* **1** [C] a large usu. grassy enclosed piece of land in a town, used by the public for pleasure and rest: *children playing in the park | a park bench* **2** [C] *BrE* a large enclosed stretch of land with grass, trees, etc., round a large country house —compare PARKLAND **3** [*the*+S] *BrE sl* a field on which esp. professional SOCCER is played: *the best player on the park* —see also AMUSEMENT PARK, BALL PARK, CAR PARK, LORRY PARK, NATIONAL PARK, SCIENCE PARK, THEME PARK

park[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to put or place (a car or other vehicle) in a particular place for a time: *You're not allowed to park (the car) in this street. | I'm parked over there.* (=My car is parked over there.) —see PARKING (USAGE) **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* to leave or place (something or someone) in a particular position for a certain time, often in a way that causes annoyance: *Don't park your books on top of my papers! | They parked their children on us while they went shopping.*

par·ka /ˈpɑːkə‖ˈpɑːrkə/ *n* **1** a coat down to the knees with a HOOD (=a protective cover) for the head, usu. with fur inside —compare ANORAK **2** *esp. AmE for* ANORAK

Par·ker[1] /ˈpɑːkəʳ‖ˈpɑːr-/, **Charlie "Bird"** (1920–55) a black American JAZZ musician and writer of music who played the SAXOPHONE and invented BEBOP with Dizzy Gillespie

Parker[2]**, Dor·o·thy** /ˈdɒrəθi‖ˈdɔː-/ (1893–1967) an American writer of criticism, poetry, and short stories, best remembered for her clever sayings and her association with the Algonquin Round Table

Park·hurst pris·on /ˌpɑːkhɜːst ˈprɪzən‖ˌpɑːrkhɜːrst-/ also **Parkhurst** a British prison on the Isle of Wight for men who have received long prison sentences for serious crimes

park·ing /ˈpɑːkɪŋ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [U] **1** the leaving of a car or other vehicle in a particular place for a time **2** space in which vehicles may be left like this: *There is plenty of parking behind the cinema.*

▷USAGE You **park** (your car) in a **car park** *BrE*‖**parking lot** *AmE or* **parking place.** When it is standing there it is **parked.** The signs *Parking*/*No Parking* mean "**Parking** is permitted/not permitted here".◁

parking ga·rage /ˈ·· ˌ··‖ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n AmE for* CAR PARK (2)

parking light /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* SIDELIGHT (1) —see picture at CAR

parking lot /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* CAR PARK (1)

parking me·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an apparatus at the side of a street, into which one puts a coin to pay for parking a car beside it for a certain time —see picture at METER

parking tick·et /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an official notice fixed to a vehicle by a TRAFFIC WARDEN or a policeman, stating that the vehicle has been parked in a way which is against the law, and that a FINE[4] will be made: *He's had ten parking tickets this month, and hasn't paid any of the fines yet.*

Par·kin·son[1] /ˈpɑːkɪnsən‖ˈpɑːr-/, **Lord Ce·cil** /ˈsesɨl/ (1931–) an English Conservative politician. In 1983 he left the Cabinet because it was made public that he had a MISTRESS (2) who was going to have a child by him. In 1987 he was brought back into the Cabinet.

Parkinson[2]**, Mi·chael** /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1935–) an English television PRESENTER and INTERVIEWER (=a person who asks others questions in a television programme)

Parkinson's dis·ease /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ —also **Par·kin·son·is·m** /ˈpɑːkɪnsənɪzəm‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [U] a kind of PARALYSIS, esp. of old people, in which the muscles become stiff and the limbs continually shake

Parkinson's law /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [S] *esp. humor* the idea that work increases to fill the time allowed for it (from the name of its inventor, British writer Cyril Northcote Parkinson

park keep·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **park ranger** *AmE*— *n* a person who is in charge of a park or whose job it is to help look after a park

park·land /ˈpɑːk-lænd‖ˈpɑːrk-/ *n* [U] **1** *BrE* grassy land, esp. that surrounding a large country house, covering a large area and having trees growing in it —compare PARK[1] (2) **2** land used as or fit for use as a park

Park Lane /ˌ· ˈ·/ a wide street in central London between Marble Arch and Hyde Park Corner. It is famous for its hotels and houses for the rich.

Parks /pɑːks‖pɑːrks/, **Ro·sa** /ˈrəʊzə/ (1913–) a black American woman who in 1955 refused to give up her seat at the front of a bus to a white man. This was against the law and she was arrested (ARREST) by the police. This is seen as one of the most important events at the beginning of the CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. In 1956, the US Supreme Court said that SEGREGATION (keeping black people separate from white people) on buses was not legal under the American Constitution.

park·way /ˈpɑːkweɪ‖ˈpɑːrk-/ *n* esp. *AmE* a wide road divided by or bordered with an area of grass and trees

par·ky /ˈpɑːki‖ˈpɑːrki/ *adj BrE infml* (of the air, weather, etc.) rather cold

par·lance /ˈpɑːləns‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [U] *fml* a particular manner of speech or use of words: *In naval parlance, a kitchen is a "galley". | in legal/common parlance*

par·ley /ˈpɑːli‖ˈpɑːrli/ *n* a talk, esp. with an enemy or other opponent, in order to make peace —**parley** *v* [I (**with**)]

par·lia·ment /ˈpɑːləmənt‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* (*often cap.*) **1** [C] (in some countries) the main law-making body, made up of members wholly or partly elected by the people of the country **2** (in Britain) the main law-making body, consisting of both the elected representatives of the people (the House of Commons) and the House of Lords. When people talk about Parliament, they often mean only the House of Commons. **3** [C] a parliament as it exists for the time between its ceremonial opening and its official closing: *Several new laws have been passed in/during the present parliament.* —see also HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, ACT OF PARLIAMENT and see extra information on page 566

par·lia·men·tar·i·an /ˌpɑːləmənˈteəriən‖ˌpɑːr-/ *n* **1** a person who is a skilled and experienced member of a parliament **2** [*often pl.*] (*usu. cap.*) a ROUNDHEAD

par·lia·men·ta·ry /ˌpɑːləˈmentəri◂‖ˌpɑːr-/ *adj* of or suitable for a parliament: *parliamentary procedure* —see also UNPARLIAMENTARY

Parliamentary Com·mit·tee /ˌ····· ·ˈ··/ *n* any of several groups of British MPs who have particular Parliament business to do. Parliamentary Committees are divided into **Standing Committees**, which mainly examine suggestions for new laws, and **Select Committees**, which check on how well government departments are working and on how much money they are spending.

parliamentary ma·jor·i·ty /ˌ····· ·ˈ···/ *n* (in Britain) the amount by which the number of MPs belonging to the ruling party is greater than the number of MPs belonging to all other parties: *For some time Wilson's government had a parliamentary majority of only three.*

parliamentary priv·i·lege /ˌ····· ˈ···/ *n* (in Britain) any of several special rights which are given to MPs e.g. freedom of speech, and not having to serve as a member of a JURY (1)

parliamentary sec·re·ta·ry /ˌ····· ˈ····/ *n* a British MP who usu. has the title Junior Minister and who helps a minister of high rank with the work of his/her department

parlor car /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* PULLMAN

par·lour *BrE* ‖ **parlor** *AmE* /ˈpɑːləʳ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **1** *esp. AmE* *(in comb.)* a shop for some kind of personal service or for selling a particular type of article: *an ice-cream parlour | a massage parlour* **2** *old-fash* a room in a private house used by the family for meeting guests, reading, and other amusements **3** *old-fash* a room in certain public buildings where guests are received: *the mayor's parlour* **4 "Will you walk into my parlour?" said a spider to a fly** *quote* the first line of a poem by Mary Howitt, often mentioned when saying that a person will pretend to be friendly in order to get something that they want —see also BEAUTY PARLOUR, MILKING PARLOUR

parlour game /ˈ·· ·/ *n old-fash* a game which can be played

indoors, usu. sitting down, such as a guessing game or a word game

par·lour·maid *BrE* ‖ **parlormaid** *AmE*– /ˈpɑːləmeɪd‖ ˈpɑːrlər-/ *n old-fash* a female servant employed in a large house to serve guests in the parlour

par·lous /ˈpɑːləs‖ˈpɑːr-/ *adj fml or humor* in danger of failing; uncertain and dangerous: *My finances are in a pretty parlous condition.* (=I haven't much money.) | *the parlous state of international relations*

Par·me·san /ˌpɑːmɪˈzæn◂‖ˈpɑːrmɪzɑːn, -zæn/ also **Parmesan cheese** /ˌ··· ˈ·/– *n* [U] a hard strong-tasting Italian cheese. It is usu. grated (GRATE) finely and put on top of PASTA dishes

Par·nas·sus /pɑːˈnæsəs‖pɑːr-/ a high mountain in central Greece, the modern name of which is **Parnassós**. In ancient times it was thought to be a holy place of the gods Apollo and Dionysus, and of the Muses (=goddesses of the arts).

Par·nell /pɑːˈnel‖pɑːr-/, **Charles Stewart** (1846–91) Irish politician who wanted HOME RULE (=self-government) in Ireland, and became leader of the Home Rule party in the House of Commons. He lost political power when it became known that he was the lover of a married woman.

pa·ro·chi·al /pəˈrəʊkiəl/ *adj* **1** *derog* limited or narrow in range; interested in or dealing only with things close to oneself: *Local newspapers tend to be very parochial.* –compare INSULAR **2** of a PARISH (1) –**~ly** *adv* –**~ism** *n* [U]

parochial school /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a private school which is run by, or connected with, a church

par·o·dy[1] /ˈpærədi/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of, on**)] (a piece of) writing or music intended to amuse, which recognizably copies the style of a known writer or musician –compare SATIRE **2** [C (**of**)] *derog* a weak and unsuccessful copy; TRAVESTY: *The trial was a parody of justice.* –**dist** *n*

parody[2] *v* [T] to make a parody of

pa·role[1] /pəˈrəʊl/ *n* [U] **1** the letting out of a prisoner for a limited time, on condition that they return: *He was released* **on parole** *to go to his daughter's wedding.* **2** the letting out of a prisoner before the official period of their imprisonment has ended, on condition that they behave well: *The sentence was for fifteen years but he was released on parole after ten years.*

parole[2] *v* [T] to set free on parole

par·ox·ys·m /ˈpærəksɪzəm/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a sudden uncontrollable expression of strong feeling: *a paroxysm of rage|laughter* **2** a sudden but passing attack (of a sharp pain or a disease that comes regularly): *paroxysms of pain|of coughing*

par·quet /ˈpɑːkeɪ, ˈpɑːki‖pɑːrˈkeɪ/ *n* [U] small flat blocks of wood fitted together in a pattern and stuck onto the floor of a room: *a parquet floor*

par·ri·cide /ˈpærɪsaɪd/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the crime of killing one's father, mother, or a close relative **2** [C] *tech* a person guilty of this crime –compare MATRICIDE, PATRICIDE

par·rot[1] /ˈpærət/ *n* **1** any of a large group of usu. tropical birds that have a curved beak and usu. brightly coloured feathers. Some of these birds can be taught to copy human speech. They are sometimes taken to other countries and kept as pets. Polly is a TRADITIONAL name for a parrot, and parrots are often taught to say "pretty Polly". In stories, PIRATES often have a parrot which sits on their shoulder and says "pieces of eight" (=old, valuable coins). –see also LONG JOHN SILVER, PIRATE **2** *usu. derog* a person who copies, often without understanding, the words or actions of another **3** **ˈparrot fashion** *usu. derog* by means of continuous repeating, but usu. without real understanding: *The children learnt the poem parrot fashion.* –see also DEAD PARROT SKETCH, **sick as a parrot** (SICK)

parrot



parrot[2] *v* [T] *usu. derog* to repeat (the words or actions of someone else) without thinking or understanding

par·ry[1] /ˈpæri/ *v* [T] to turn aside or keep away (an attacking blow or a weapon); DEFLECT: (fig.) *He parried the unwelcome question very skilfully.*

parry[2] *n* an act of parrying; movement of defence in some sports, esp. FENCING

parse /pɑːz‖pɑːrs/ *v* [T] *tech* (in grammar) **1** to state the PART OF SPEECH, the form in grammar, and the use in a particular sentence of (a word) **2** to give this information about all the words in (a sentence) –**parser** *n* : *an automatic parser that uses a computer program*

Par·see , Parsi /pɑːˈsiː‖ˈpɑːrsiː/ *n, adj* (a member) of an ancient Persian religious group in India

par·si·mo·ni·ous /ˌpɑːsɪˈməʊniəs◂‖ˌpɑːr-/ *adj fml, usu. derog* extremely careful with money; unwilling to spend; STINGY: *a parsimonious person|gift* –**~ly** *adv* –**~ness** *n* [U]

par·si·mo·ny /ˈpɑːsɪməni‖ˈpɑːrsɪməʊni/ *n* [U] *fml, usu. derog* the quality of being parsimonious; failure to be generous

pars·ley /ˈpɑːsli‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [U] a small plant (HERB) with curly strong-tasting leaves, grown in gardens and used in cooking or as a decoration on food

parsley sauce /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a WHITE SAUCE (=a thick white liquid cooked with flour) with finely cut up parsley in it, eaten in Britain esp. with fish

pars·nip /ˈpɑːsnɪp‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] (a plant with) a thick white or yellowish root that is used as a vegetable

par·son /ˈpɑːsən‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **1** a priest of the Church of England who is in charge of a PARISH (1) **2** *AmE* a Protestant priest who is in charge of a local church or PARISH **3** *infml* any Christian priest

par·son·age /ˈpɑːsənɪdʒ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* the house where a parson lives

Par·sons /ˈpɑːsənz‖ˈpɑːr-/, **Nich·o·las** /ˈnɪkələs/ (1928–) an English actor now known esp. as a QUIZMASTER

parson's nose /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **pope's nose** *AmE*– *n infml humor* the piece of flesh at the tail end of a cooked bird, such as a chicken

part[1] /pɑːt‖pɑːrt/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] any of the pieces into which something is divided or may be considered as being divided, whether separated from a whole or connected with it, and which is therefore less than the whole: *This is only (a) part of it; where's the rest?* | *I didn't like the first part of the book.* | *Which part of the town do you live in?* | *Divide the mixture into two equal parts.* | *A large part of the house was|Large parts of the house were destroyed by the fire.* | *The best part of my job is all the travel it involves.* | *She lived there for the greater part* (=most) *of her life.* | *We waited for* **the best part|the better part of** *an hour.* (=almost an hour) **2** [C] a division of a story or other work which appears regularly on radio or television, in a newspaper, as a PART WORK, etc.: *You can see part two of the serial at the same time next week.* | *a book by Charles Dickens, adapted for radio in 14 parts* **3** [C] **a** a necessary or important piece of a machine or other apparatus: *This machine has over a hundred moving parts.* **b** a SPARE PART **4** [C] any of several equal divisions which make up a whole: *This mixture is one part wine and two parts water.* | (*infml*) *The work's three parts* (=three quarters; nearly) *finished.* **5** [S;U (**in**)] a share or responsibility in some activity: *to* **take part** *in a race|a debate* | *Luck* **played a part** *in* (=helped to cause) *his success.* | *The question of cost will play an important part in our decision.* | *He was the host, so it wasn't my part to tell him who should be invited.* | *This is a dishonest plan, and I want no part in it.* **6** [U] a side or position **a** in an argument: *Tom* **took my part** *in the disagreement.* (=supported my side) **b** *law* in an agreement or contract **7** [C] (the words and actions of) a character acted by an actor in a play, film, etc.: *Have you learnt your part yet?* | *She's been offered a marvellous part in the new film.* | *In the play, I take|play the part of a policeman.* | (fig.) *He's a very successful businessman, but he doesn't really* **look|dress the part.** (=look/dress like someone in that position) –see also BIT PART **8** [C] *AmE for* PARTING[1] (2) **9 for ˈmy part** as far as I am concerned; speaking for myself: *For my part, I don't care who wins.* **10 for the ˈmost part: a** mostly: *This orange drink is for the most part water.* **b** most of the time; in most cases: *For the most part the children are very healthy.* **11** *BrE* **in good part** without being offended: *I hope you will* **take** *my advice* **in good part. 12 in part** in some degree; partly: *The accident was due in part to carelessness, but mainly to bad luck.* **13 on the part of someone** of or by someone: *It was a*

mistake on the part of Jones|on Jones's part (=Jones was mistaken) *to sign the contract without reading it.* **14 part and parcel of** a necessary or important part that cannot be separated from the whole of: *Working irregular hours is part and parcel of being a journalist.* —see also PARTS, PRIVATE PARTS

part[2] *v* **1** [I (**from, as**); T (**from**)] *esp. fml or lit* to (cause to) separate or no longer be together: *I hope we can part (as) friends.* (=remain friends even though we part) | *The war parted many men from their families.* | *We tried to part the two angry dogs.* (=stop them fighting) | *She refused to be parted from her beloved cat.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) separate into parts or spread apart: *The clouds parted and the sun shone.* | *She parted the curtains and looked out.* **3** [T] to separate (hair on the head) along a line with a comb **4 part company (with): a** to end a relationship (with): *I hear he and his wife have parted company.* **b** to no longer be together (with): *I'm getting off the train here, so we must part company.* **c** to disagree (with): *I'll have to part company with you on that point.* **5 parting is such sweet sorrow** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, often used humorously

part with sthg. *phr v* [T] to give away; stop having: *It's not easy to part with one's favourite possessions.*

part[3] *adv* partly: *The medical exams are part written, part practical.*

part[4] *adj* [A] not complete; PARTIAL: *I gave them a pound in part payment.* | *They are part owners of the house.* (=they share ownership of it)

par·take /pɑːˈteɪk‖pɑːr-/ *v* **partook** /pɑːˈtʊk‖pɑːr-/, **partaken** /pɑːˈteɪkən‖pɑːr-/ [I] *old use or fml* **1** [(**in**)] to take part (in an activity); PARTICIPATE **2** [(**of**)] *often humor* to eat or drink esp. something offered: *"Will you partake of a little wine?" "No, thank you; I don't partake."* (=don't drink alcohol)

partake of sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to have the qualities, to some degree, of: *a self-confident manner that partakes of arrogance*

par·terre /pɑːˈteəʳ‖pɑːr-/ *n* a level space in a garden, with an area of grass and decorative areas of flowers in a formal pattern

part ex·change /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **trade-in** *AmE*– *n* [C;U] (an example of) the system of paying for something partly in money and partly in goods, esp. with a used object of the same kind as the thing one is buying: *When you buy a new car you can often give your old one in part exchange.*

par·the·no·gen·e·sis /ˌpɑːθəʊˈdʒenəsəs‖ˌpɑːr-/ *n* [U] *tech* the production of a new plant or animal from a female without sexual union with a male

Par·the·non /ˈpɑːθənən‖ˈpɑːrθənɑːn/ [*the*] a temple to the goddess Athena on the ACROPOLIS in Athens; the most famous example of a Greek temple, and visited by many people

par·tial /ˈpɑːʃəl‖ˈpɑːr-/ *adj* **1** not complete: *a partial success|recovery* **2** *derog* showing special favour to one person, side, etc., esp. in a way that is unfair —opposite **impartial** **3** [F+**to**] *infml* having a strong liking or taste for: *I'm very partial to cream cakes.* —see also PARTIALLY

par·ti·al·i·ty /ˌpɑːʃiˈælətiˌpɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] *derog* being PARTIAL (2); BIAS —opposite **impartiality** **2** [S (**for**)] a special liking or fondness: *a partiality for cream cakes*

par·tial·ly /ˈpɑːʃəli‖ˈpɑːr-/ *adv* **1** not completely; partly: *He was (only) partially to blame for the accident.* **2** *derog* in a PARTIAL (2) way

par·tic·i·pant /pɑːˈtɪsəpənt‖pɑːr-/ *n* [(**in**)] a person who takes part or has a share in an activity or event: *All participants in the race should give their names to the starter.*

par·tic·i·pate /pɑːˈtɪsəpeɪt‖pɑːr-/ *v* [I (**in**)] *rather fml* to take part or have a share in an activity or event: *Everyone in the class is expected to participate in these discussions.* —**pation** /pɑːˌtɪsəˈpeɪʃən‖pɑːr-/ *n* [U (**in**)] : *They want greater participation in the decision-making process.*

par·ti·cip·i·al /ˌpɑːtəˈsɪpiəl◂‖ˌpɑːr-/ *adj tech* (in grammar) being or using a participle: *"Singing" in "a singing bird" is a participial adjective.* —~**ly** *adv*

par·ti·ci·ple /ˈpɑːtəsɪpəl‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n tech* (in grammar) a NONFINITE verb form that can be used in compound forms of the verb or as an adjective. English has two participles, the PAST PARTICIPLE and the PRESENT PARTICIPLE.

par·ti·cle /ˈpɑːtɪkəl‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a very small piece: *dust particles floating in the sunlight* | (fig.) *There wasn't a particle of truth in what he said.* —see also ELEMENTARY PARTICLE **2** (in grammar) any of a number of usu. short words that are not as important in a sentence as the subject, verb, etc.: *Prepositions and conjunctions are particles.*

particle ac·cel·e·ra·tor /ˈ··· ·ˌ····/ *n* ACCELERATOR (2)

particle phys·ics /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the study of the formation and behaviour of ELEMENTARY PARTICLES (=very small bits of matter inside atoms)

par·ti-col·oured /ˌpɑːti ˈkʌləd◂‖ˌpɑːrti ˈkʌlərd◂/ *adj* having different colours in different parts

par·tic·u·lar[1] /pəˈtɪkjʊləʳ‖pər-/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] deserving special notice or attention; unusual: *There was nothing in the letter of particular importance.* | *There's no particular reason why you shouldn't go.* **2** [A *no comp.*] single and different from others; considered separately: *This particular case is an exception to the rule.* | *Shall I just order beer, or is there some particular type you prefer?* **3** [(**about, over**)] showing (too) much care or interest in small matters: *He's very particular about having his breakfast at exactly 8 o'clock.* | *She's very particular about her food.* (=chooses it carefully and will not eat certain kinds) [+*wh*-] *I'm not particular* (=do not care) *how you do it as long as it gets done.* **4** [A] *fml* careful and exact: *a full and particular account of what happened*

particular[2] *n* **1** *fml* a small single part of a whole; detail: *This work must be correct* **in every particular/in all particulars. 2 in particular** especially: *I noticed his eyes in particular, because they were such an unusual colour.* —see also PARTICULARS

par·tic·u·lar·i·ty /pəˌtɪkjʊˈlærətiˌpər-/ *n fml* **1** [U] exactness; attention to detail **2** [C] a particular **3** [C] something strange or unusual; PECULIARITY

par·tic·u·lar·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /pəˈtɪkjʊləraɪz‖pər-/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to give the details of (something) one by one; ITEMIZE —**-ization** /pəˌtɪkjʊləraɪˈzeɪʃən‖pərˌtɪkjʊlərə-/ *n* [U]

par·tic·u·lar·ly /pəˈtɪkjʊləli‖pərˈtɪkjʊlərli/ *adv* especially; in a way that is special and different from others: *I particularly like this one.* | *He isn't particularly clever.* | *Watch that horse particularly – it bites!*

par·tic·u·lars /pəˈtɪkjʊləz‖pərˈtɪkjʊlərz/ *n* [P (**of**)] detailed information or facts: *The policeman* **took down her particulars.** (=wrote down her name, address, etc.) | *I'd like you to give us full particulars of the incident.*

part·ing[1] /ˈpɑːtɪŋ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an example of) the action of parting (PART[2] (1, 2)) **2** [C] *BrE* ‖ **part** *AmE*– the line on a person's head where the hair is parted (PART[2] (3)): *a centre parting* **3 the parting of the ways** the point at which two people must separate or a choice must be made

parting[2] *adj* [A] done or given at the time of parting (PART[2] (1)): *a parting kiss*

parting shot /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a last remark, special look, etc., made at the moment of leaving, esp. as the last reply in an argument

Par·ti Qué·bé·cois /ˌpɑːti keɪbeˈkwɑː‖ˌpɑːr-/ a political party in the PROVINCE of Quebec, Canada, which wants Quebec to become a separate country

par·ti·san[1] **, -zan** /ˌpɑːtəˈzæn‖ˈpɑːrtəzən, -sən/ *adj usu. derog* showing strong often unreasoning support of a particular party, group, plan, etc., and dislike of any others: *a very partisan speech|newspaper*

partisan[2] **, -zan** *n* **1** a member of an armed group that fights in secret against an enemy that has defeated its country —compare TERRORIST **2** *usu. derog* a partisan person —~**ship** *n* [U]

par·ti·tion[1] /pɑːˈtɪʃən‖pər-, pɑːr-/ *n* **1** [C] something that separates, esp. a thin wall inside a building that divides a larger room: *You could hear what he was saying on the phone through the partition.* | *a glass partition* —see picture at OPEN-PLAN **2** [U (**into**)] division, esp. of a country, into two or more parts: *India before partition* (=division into India and Pakistan)

partition[2] *v* [T (**into**)] to divide into two or more parts

partition sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to make (esp. a part of a room) separate by means of a partition

par·ti·tive /ˈpɑːtətɪv‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n, adj tech* (a word) which expresses a part of a whole: *"Some" is a partitive word, as in the phrase "some of the cake".* —~**ly** *adv*

part·ly /ˈpɑːtli‖ˈpɑːr-/ *adv* in some way or in some degree; not completely: *What you say is partly true.* | *We are all partly to blame.* | *a partly-finished building.*

part·ner[1] /ˈpɑːtnəʳ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **1** either of two people sharing an activity, such as dancing together or playing together against two others in certain games **2** any of the owners of a business, who share the profits and losses rather than receiving regular pay: *She's a partner in a law firm.* —see also SLEEPING PARTNER **3** a person who shares and helps in the same stated activity: *They were* **partners in crime.** —compare COMPANION (1,2) **4** either of two people who have a relationship that is both sexual and social, esp. if they are living together (—see also COHABIT): *This is John, my partner.*

partner[2] *v* [T] **1** to act as partner to: *John partnered Jane at the dance.* **2** [(UP, **with**)] to provide (someone) with a partner or bring (two people) together as partners

partner up *phr v* [I (**with**)] to become a partner or partners: *John and Mary have partnered up for the dance.*

part·ner·ship /ˈpɑːtnəʃɪp‖ˈpɑːrtnər-/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being a partner, esp. in business: *We've been in partnership for five years.* | *She's gone into partnership with two of the other local doctors.* **2** [C] a business owned by two or more partners **3** [C] (in cricket) the total number of runs scored by two batsmen (BATSMAN) batting together in a match

part of speech /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n tech* (in grammar) any of the classes into which words are divided according to their use: *"Noun", "verb", and "adjective" are parts of speech.* —see also PRINCIPAL PARTS

Par·ton /ˈpɑːtn‖ˈpɑːr-/, **Dolly** (1946–) an American popular music singer, songwriter and GUITAR player who started as a COUNTRY AND WESTERN singer and has become an actress and well-known television personality in the US. She is known for her unusually large breasts, her thick white hair, her bright personality and her attractive singing voice.

Dolly Parton



par·took /pɑːˈtʊk‖pɑːr-/ *past tense of* PARTAKE

par·tridge /ˈpɑːtrɪdʒ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n* **partridges** *or* **partridge** any of various middle-size birds, with a round body and short tail, shot for sport and food. In Britain partridge is one of the more expensive foods and shooting them is a generally UPPER-CLASS sport.

parts /pɑːts‖pɑːrts/ *n* [P] **1** a general area or division of a country, without fixed limits: *We don't have much rain in these parts.* | *She lives in* **foreign parts.** (=abroad) **2 of parts** *lit or pomp* of many different abilities (in the phrase **a man/woman of parts**) **3** *infml* SPARE PARTS —see also PRIVATE PARTS

part-song /ˈ· ·/ *n* a song which is made up of three or more musical lines sung together

part-time /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj, adv* working or giving work during only a part of the regular working time: *a part-time secretary/student* | *He got a part-time job washing dishes.* —compare FULL-TIME —**-part-timer** *n*: *We have three full-time staff, and a part-timer who works mornings.*

par·tu·ri·tion /ˌpɑːtjʊˈrɪʃən‖ˌpɑːrtə-, -tʃə-/ *n* [U] *med* the act of giving birth

part-way /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adv infml* slightly, a little: *If he were only part-way competent, I'd be satisfied.*

part work /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE* a set of magazines on one particular subject that are produced usu. once a week and can be put together to form a book

par·ty[1] /ˈpɑːti‖ˈpɑːrti/ *n* **1** an occasion when people meet together, usu. by invitation and often in a private home, to enjoy themselves, e.g. by eating and drinking, dancing, etc.: *We're having/giving/throwing a party on New Year's Eve.* | *a tea party* | *a birthday party* | *a garden party* | *a party dress* —compare FESTIVAL, HOLIDAY, see also HEN PARTY, HOUSE PARTY, STAG PARTY **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people **a** doing something together: *A party of schoolchildren is going to France.* **b** given a special duty together: *a search party* —see also WORKING PARTY **3** [+*sing./pl.* v] an association of people having the same political aims, esp. as formed to try to win elections: *the Labour party* | *party politics* | *an all-party committee* | *Politicians shouldn't put party before country.* | *He always* **follows the party line.** (=acts according to its official opinion) | *one of* **the party faithful** (=loyal members of the party) **4** a person or group of people concerned or taking part in an agreement, argument, or other activity, esp. a legal matter: *the two parties* (=groups of people) *in the quarrel* | *Are you (a) party to the agreement?* | *I could never be a party to such dishonesty.* | *We know he is the* **guilty party,** *because we saw him take the money.* —see also THIRD PARTY

party[2] *v* [I] *infml, esp. AmE* to enjoy oneself, esp. at a party or parties

Party Con·fe·rence /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* (in Britain) the yearly meeting of a political party when plans for the coming year are discussed

party game /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a game played at esp. a children's party

party line /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a telephone line connected to two or more telephones belonging to different people —see also PARTY[1] (3)

party piece /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n usu. humor* a song, poem, etc. that is someone's usual choice when they are asked to give a performance, e.g. at a party

party-po·lit·i·cal /ˌ·· ·ˈ···◂/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* connected or concerned with party politics: *fruitless party-political wranglings* | *an issue of purely party-political interest*

party-political broad·cast /ˌ·· ···· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **paid political broadcast** *AmE*– *n* a television programme, broadcast esp. before a General Election, in which a politician asks the public to vote for his/her party and gives reasons why he/she thinks they should do so. Party political broadcasts last only a few minutes, and in Britain all parties making these broadcasts are allowed the same amount of time.

party pol·i·tics /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U+*sing./pl.v*] political activity done by a party in order to improve its own structure, to gain more power, etc., rather than for the good of other organizations or the public: *She wanted to change society but found herself bogged down in party politics.*

party poop·er /ˈpɑːti ˌpuːpəʳ‖ˈpɑːr-/ *n infml* a dull or unfriendly person who does not enjoy being with other people, spoils their fun, etc.

party wall /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a dividing wall between two houses, belonging to the owners of both houses

par val·ue /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] PAR[1] (3)

par·ve·nu /ˈpɑːvənjuː‖ˈpɑːrvənuː/ *n usu. derog* a person of a low social position who suddenly gains power or wealth

Pas·cal /pæˈskæl/, **Blaise** /bleɪz/ (1623–62) a French scientist and religious thinker (PHILOSOPHER), noted for his work in MATHEMATICS and PHYSICS and for his religious writings in which he argues that faith is needed to understand the universe

PASCAL /ˈpæskæl‖pæˈskæl/ *n* [U] a computer language used esp. when teaching computer studies and with small computers in business: *Do you use PASCAL?*

pas·chal /ˈpæskəl/ *adj* [A] (*often cap.*) **1** of the Jewish holiday of Passover **2** *lit or old use* of Easter: *the Paschal lamb*

pas de deux /ˌpɑː də ˈdɜː‖-ˈduː/ *n* **pas de deux** a dance, esp. in BALLET, for two people dancing together

Pas·o·li·ni /pæsəˈliːni/, **Pier Pao·lo** /pjeəʳ ˈpaʊləʊ/ (1922–75) an Italian film director who was murdered. His films include *The Gospel According to St. Matthew, Medea,* and *Oedipus Rex*

pass[1] /pɑːs‖pæs/ *v* **1** [I (BY);T] to reach and move beyond (a person or place): *She waved at me as she passed (by).* | *It's dangerous to pass* (=OVERTAKE other cars) *on this narrow road.* | *I passed the pub on my way to the library.* | (fig.) *It* **passes my understanding/comprehension** (=I cannot understand) *how he could have done such a stupid thing.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to go, move, or place, esp. in or for a short space of time: *A cloud passed across the sun.* | *She passed amongst the crowd distributing leaflets.* | *We pass through Germany on our way to Austria.* | *The news quickly passed round the hall.* | *His famous exploits have passed into folklore.* | *She passed the rope round the tree.* | (fig.) *Angry words passed between them.* **3** [I;T] to get or go through, across, over, or

between: *The crowd parted to let the coach pass.* | *The smugglers passed the frontier without being searched.* | *Sales of the book have now passed the million mark.* (=more than a million have been sold) **4** [I (AWAY)] to come to an end or disappear: *The storm soon passed (away).* | *Your sorrow will soon pass.* **5** [T (**to**)] to move (something) from one person to another, esp. by hand; give: [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Pass me the salt, please – I can't quite reach it.* | *He passed her the bread|passed the bread to her.* | *Could you pass (me) that book down from the top shelf?* **6** [I;T (**to**)] (in various sports) to kick, throw, hit, etc. (esp. a ball), esp. to a member of one's own side: *He passed (the ball) back to the goalkeeper.* **7** [I;T] **a** (of time) to go by: *The hours passed slowly.* **b** to spend (time), esp. in a way that does not seem too long or dull: *On the train journey, we played cards to pass the time.* **8** [I+*adv|prep*, esp. **from, to, into**] to change: *When you melt ice, it passes from a solid to a liquid state.* **9** [I;T] **a** to officially approve or be approved, esp. after a vote: *Parliament has passed a law to restrict immigration.* **b** to accept or be accepted as satisfactory, esp. after an examination: *I can't pass this bad piece of work!* | *The doctor wouldn't pass him (as) fit|ready for work.* | *You might be able to get into a disco in those clothes, but they won't pass in this office!* **10** [I;T] to succeed in (an examination): *"Did you pass your driving test?" "No, I failed."* **11** [T] to cause (money) to be accepted, esp. by illegal or dishonest means: [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Someone tried to pass me a forged £10 note.* **12** [T (**on, upon**)] to give or express (a judgment, opinion, remark, etc.): *I wouldn't like to pass an opinion on such a complicated subject.* | *The judge passed a heavy sentence on her.* | *He passed some comment or other, but I didn't hear what it was.* | *He stopped to* **pass the time of day** (=to have a short conversation) *with a neighbour.* **13** [I+*adv|prep*, esp. **to, into**] to go from the control or possession of one person to that of another: *On his death, the farm will pass to his son|into the hands of the state.* **14** [I] (in card games) to let one's turn go by without playing a card, putting down money, or making a BID[2] (3) **15** [I] to give no answer to a question because you do not know the answer: *I think I'll pass on that one.* | *"Who was the President of the US in 1956?" "Pass."* **16** [T] *fml* to send out from the bowels or BLADDER: *to pass water* (=to URINATE) **17** [I] *fml or bibl* to happen: *How can such a terrible state of affairs have* **come to pass** (=happened); *what can have* **brought it to pass? 18 let something pass** to leave (a wrong statement, mistake, etc.) without putting it right: *He said Shakespeare was an American and I couldn't let that pass.* –see also PASSING, **pass the hat round** (HAT), **pass muster** (MUSTER[2]); see PAST (USAGE)

pass as sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to PASS **for**

pass away|on *phr v* [I] *euph* (esp. of a person) to die: *She passed away in her sleep.* –see DEAD[1] (CULTURAL NOTE)

pass sbdy. ↔ **by|over** *phr v* [T] to pay no attention to; take no notice of: *The voters passed him by.* | *Life has passed me by.*

pass sthg. ↔ **down|on** *phr v* [T (**to**) *often pass.*] to give or leave to people who are younger or live later: *a skill that has been passed down from father to son*

pass for|as sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to be (mistakenly) accepted or considered as: *His English is so good he could pass as a native.* | *I can't imagine how this place passes for a five-star hotel! The service is dreadful.*

pass off *phr v* **1** [I+*adv|prep*] to take place and be completed: *The meeting passed off well.* **2** [T (**as**)] (**pass** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off**) to present falsely: *She passed herself off as an experienced actress.* –compare PALM **off** (1)

pass on *phr v* **1** [I] *euph* to die; PASS **away** **2** [T] to PASS **down** **3** [I] to move on: *Let us now pass on to the next subject.* **4** [T] (**pass** sthg. ↔ **on**) to give to another person: *Read the note then pass it on.*

pass out *phr v* **1** [I] to faint: *He always passes out at the sight of blood.* **2** [I] *esp. BrE* to finish a course esp. at a military school: *a passing-out parade* **3** [T] (**pass** sthg. ↔ **out**) to give out: DISTRIBUTE (3)

pass over *phr v* [T] **1** (**pass** sbdy. ↔ **over**) to PASS **by**: *He was passed over for promotion|in favour of a younger man.* **2** (**pass over** sthg.) to try not to notice or mention: *Let us pass over his rude remarks in silence.*

pass sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to fail to take advantage of; miss: *I had a chance to go to America, but I passed it up.*

pass[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of moving past: *The aircraft made a few passes over the enemy camp, but didn't drop any bombs.* **2** [C] an official piece of paper with writing on it which shows that one is allowed to do a certain thing, such as travel on a train or bus without paying, enter a building, etc.: *We had to show our passes to the security guard.* –see also FREE PASS **3** [C] **a** a successful result in an examination: *a pass in geography* **b** (esp. in Britain) the completing of a university course with an examination standard that is acceptable but not good enough for HONOURS (2): *a pass degree* **4** [C] (in various sports) an act of passing (PASS[1] (6)) a ball **5** a way by which one may move or travel through or over a place, esp. over a range of mountains: *the Brenner Pass* | *the landslide blocked the pass.* –see picture at MOUNTAIN **6** [S] *BrE infml* a difficult state or condition: *Things have* **come to a pretty|fine|sorry pass** *if we can't even afford beer!* **7** [C] a single complete stage in a process of dealing with something: *This is just the first pass, when we discard the most unsuitable candidates.* **8 make a pass at** *sl* (esp. of a man) to invite or attempt sexual activity, either with words or by trying to touch (a member of the opposite sex)

pass. *abbrev. for:* PASSIVE[1] (2)

pass·a·ble /ˈpɑːsəbəl‖ˈpæ-/ *adj* **1** (just) good enough to be accepted; satisfactory but not very good: *a passable piece of work* **2** (of a road or river) that can be travelled along or across –opposite **impassable** –**-bly** *adv*

pas·sage /ˈpæsɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] also **pas·sage·way** /ˈpæsɪdʒweɪ/ *BrE* ‖ also **hall, hallway** *AmE*– a long narrow connecting way, esp. inside a building; CORRIDOR: *Her room is just along the passage.* **2** [C (**through**)] *esp. BrE* a usu. narrow way through; opening: *We forced a passage through the crowd.* **3** [U (**of**)] *fml* the action of going across, by, over, through, etc., something: *The old bridge is not strong enough to allow the passage of heavy vehicles.* | (fig.) *The bill was amended several times during its passage through Parliament.* **4** [U (**of**)] the course (of time): *With the passage of time the incident was forgotten.* **5** [S (**from, to**)] (the cost of) a journey, esp. by sea or air: *He couldn't afford the passage, and so he had to* **work his passage** *by doing jobs on the ship.* | *We had a rough passage.* **6** [C] a usu. short part of a speech or a piece of writing or music, considered by itself –see also PURPLE PASSAGE, **rites of passage** (RITE)

Passage to In·di·a /ˌ·· · ˈ···/, **A** a NOVEL by E M Forster about misunderstandings between people of different countries, in this case, Britain and India. It has been made into a successful film.

pas·sant /ˈpæsɒn‖pɑːˈsɑːn/ see EN PASSANT

pass·book /ˈpɑːsbʊk‖ˈpæs-/ *n* **1 a** a book in which a record of the money one puts into and takes out of a BUILDING SOCIETY is kept **b** *AmE* for BANKBOOK **2** (in S Africa before 1987) a small book which non-white people had to carry which allowed them to be in a certain area

pas·sé /ˈpɑːseɪ, ˈpæseɪ‖pæˈseɪ/ *adj* [F] *derog* no longer considered modern; old-fashioned

pas·sen·ger /ˈpæsɪndʒəʳ, -sən-/ *n* **1** a person, not the driver, travelling in a public or private vehicle: *This bus can carry 60 passengers.* | *a passenger train* | *The driver and both passengers were unhurt in the accident.* **2** *BrE derog* a member of a team or other group who does not do his or her share of the group's work

Passe·par·tout /ˌpæspɑːˈtuː‖-pɑːr-/ a character in Jules Verne's story *Around the World in 80 Days*, Phileas Fogg's servant and travelling-companion –see also Phileas FOGG

pass·er·by /ˌpɑːsəˈbaɪ‖ˌpæsər-/ *n* **passersby** /-səz-‖-sərz-/ a person who (by chance) is walking, driving, etc. past a place: *A few passersby saw the accident.*

pas·sim /ˈpæsɪm/ *adv tech* (of a phrase, idea, etc., that appears in a book, a writer's work, etc.) frequently; in many places: *For further information, see chapter six passim.*

pass·ing[1] /ˈpɑːsɪŋ‖ˈpæ-/ *n* [U (**of**)] **1** the act of going by: *With the passing of the years he grew more and more ill-tempered.* **2 a** ending; disappearance: *The old government was voted out, and few people mourned its passing.* **b** *euph* death **3 in passing** in the course of a statement, esp. one about a different matter: *He was talking about his holiday in Spain, and he mentioned in passing that you were thinking of going there next year.*

passing[2] *adj* [A] **1** moving or going by: *He watched the passing cars.* | *With every passing day she grew stronger.* | *a* **passing shot** *in tennis* (=that passes one's opponent) **2** not lasting very long; BRIEF: *She did not give the matter even a passing thought.* | *a passing reference*

passing[3] *adv old use* very: *passing strange*

passing shot /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* (in TENNIS) a shot that hits the ball to one side and beyond the reach of an opponent who is coming towards the net

pas·sion /ˈpæʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (**for**)] (a) strong, deep, often uncontrollable feeling, esp. of sexual love, hatred, or anger: *The poet expressed his burning passion for the woman he loved.* | *a political meeting where* **passions ran high** (=people expressed strong feelings) **2** [S] a sudden show of anger or bad temper: *She gets into a passion if you contradict her.* **3** [S+**for**] *infml* a strong liking: *a passion for (collecting) antiques* —see also CRIME OF PASSION —~**less** *adj* —~**lessly** *adv*

Passion [*the*] *n tech* the suffering and death of Christ

pas·sion·ate /ˈpæʃənɨt/ *adj* **1** able to feel strongly with passion: *a passionate woman* **2** showing or filled with passion: *a passionate speech in defence of freedom* **3** very eager; INTENSE: *a passionate interest in sports* —~**ly** *adv*: *He believes passionately in the justice of his cause.*

pas·sion·flow·er /ˈpæʃənˌflaʊəʳ/ *n* any of various types of climbing plant with large flowers, usu. growing in warm countries, some of which produce an egg-shaped fruit (**passionfruit**) which is good to eat

passion play /ˈ·· ·/ *n* (*often cap. first* P) a play telling the story of the Passion —compare NATIVITY PLAY

Passion Sun·day /ˌ·· ˈ··/ the second Sunday before Easter in the Christian church, when special prayers are said

pas·sive[1] /ˈpæsɪv/ *adj* **1** *sometimes derog* accepting what happens or what other people do to one, but not doing anything in return; suffering without opposition: *They received the news of their defeat with passive resignation.* | *How can you be so passive? Why don't you retaliate?* | *They mounted a campaign of* **passive resistance** *against the occupiers.* (=opposing them without using violence) **2** [*no comp.*] *tech* (of a verb or sentence) having as the subject the person or thing to which an action is done (as in *The boy was thrown from his horse*) —compare ACTIVE[1] (3) —~**ly** *adj*

passive[2] also **passive voice** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* [*the*+S] *tech* the passive form of a verb: *"The ball was kicked by the boy" is in the passive.* —compare ACTIVE[2]

passive smok·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the breathing in of smoke from the cigarettes, PIPEs, etc. that other people are smoking, now considered to be almost as harmful to health as actually smoking yourself

pas·siv·i·ty /pæˈsɪvɨti/ also **pas·sive·ness** /ˈpæsɪvnɨs/— *n* [U] *sometimes derog* the quality of being PASSIVE[1] (1)

pas·siv·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpæsɪvaɪz/ *v* [I;T] *tech* to (cause to) become PASSIVE[1] (2) —**-ization** /ˌpæsɪvaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-və-/ *n* [U]

pass·key /ˈpɑːs-kiː‖ˈpæs-/ *n* **1** a key made to open a particular door or gate, and given only to those few people allowed to use that door or gate **2** a key that will open a number of different locks, all of which have keys of their own

pass laws /ˈ· ·/ *n* [P] South African laws which formerly controlled or prevented the movement of black people from place to place. The pass laws were stopped as part of the end of APARTHEID.

Pass·o·ver /ˈpɑːsəʊvəʳ‖ˈpæs-/ *n* [(*the*)] (in the Jewish religion) a religious holiday in memory of the escape of the Jews from being slaves in Egypt. Passover is one of the most important Jewish holidays and takes place in the spring.

pass·port /ˈpɑːspɔːt‖ˈpæspɔːrt/ *n* **1** a small official book given by a government to a citizen, which proves who that person is and allows them to leave their country and enter foreign countries: *She holds* (=has) *a French passport.* **2** [(**to**)] something, such as a quality or possession, that makes it possible for a person to do or get something desirable: *He thought that money was a passport to happiness|to high society*

passport con·trol /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* where one's passport is checked when leaving and entering a country

pass the par·cel /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] a British game played esp. at children's parties, in which a parcel wrapped in many sheets of paper is passed from player to player while music is played. When the music stops, the player holding the parcel tries to unwrap as much paper as possible from the parcel before the music starts again. The game ends when a player unwraps the parcel completely and receives a prize which was inside it.

pass·word /ˈpɑːswɜːd‖ˈpæswɜːrd/ *n* **1** a secret word or phrase which must be spoken by a person before they are allowed to enter a building, camp, etc. <> they are used as a safety measure to prevent the wrong people from entering **2** a secret group of letters, numbers, etc., which must be used by a person before they can operate a computer system

past[1] /pɑːst‖pæst/ *adj* **1** [A;after *n*] (of time) much earlier than the present: *In years past|past years they never would have done that.* **2** [A;after *n*] (*with perfect tenses*) (of time) a little earlier than the present; up until now or until the time of speaking: *I've not been feeling very well for the past few days.* | *I've been meaning to speak to you for some time past.* **3** finished; ended: *The time for talking is past — we need action!* | *Winter is past and spring has come.* **4** [A] former; PREVIOUS: *Judging by past performance, I expect her to do well.* | *a past president of our club* **5** [A] *tech* being the form of a verb used to show a past act or state: *the past tense* —compare FUTURE[1]

▷ USAGE The past participle of **pass** is **passed**, but the adjective is **past.** Compare *The week has* **passed** quickly and *the* **past** *week.*◁

past[2] *prep* **1 a** farther than: *The hospital is about a mile past the school.* **b** up to and beyond: *The boys rushed past us.* **2** beyond in time or age: *The time is half past three.* | *The trains leave at ten past (the hour).* | *It's past my bedtime.* | *She must be past 50.* **3** beyond the possibility of: *The sick man's condition is past hope.* | *Frankly, I'm past caring.* (=I no longer care) **4 past it** *infml* no longer able to do the things one could formerly do: *This old car's past it; we'll have to get a new one.* **5 wouldn't put it past someone (to do something)** *infml* to regard someone as likely (to do something bad, unusual, etc.): *I'm not sure if he actually cheated in the exam, but I wouldn't put it past him!*

past[3] *n* **1** [(*the*) S] (what happened in) time before the present: *In the past he has been a bricklayer and a milkman, and now he's a farmer.* | *Good manners seem to have become* **a thing of the past.** (=something that no longer exists) | *a country with a glorious past* (=history) —compare FUTURE[1] **2** [*the*+S] *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows that the act or state described by the verb happened or existed at some time before the present moment **3** [S] *old-fash derog* a former life, esp. a secret one containing wrong-doing of some kind: *a woman with a past*

past[4] *adv* by; to and beyond a point in space or time: *Children came running past.* | *Days went past without any news.*

pas·ta /ˈpæstə‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] food made, in various different shapes, from flour paste, and often covered with SAUCE and/or cheese: *Macaroni, spaghetti, and vermicelli are all types of pasta.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Pasta is generally thought of as Italian food, but is widely eaten in Britain and the US at home and in restaurants.◄

paste[1] /peɪst/ *n* [C;U] **1** a soft sticky mixture of powder and liquid that is easily shaped or spread: *Add water, mix it into a paste, and fill the cracks with it.* | *Marzipan is made from almond paste.* —see also TOOTHPASTE **2** a thin mixture, esp. of flour and water, used for sticking paper together or onto other surfaces —compare GLUE **3** a food made by crushing solid foods into a smooth soft mass, used for spreading on bread: *meat paste* | *fish paste* —compare PÂTÉ **4** a shining material made of lead and glass, used to copy the appearance of real jewels: *They're not diamonds, they're only paste.*

paste[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] to stick or fasten (paper) with paste: *A notice was pasted to|on the door.* | *Paste down the edge of the paper.* | *Notices about the demonstration were pasted up (on walls) all over the university.* —see also PASTE-UP, PASTING

paste·board[1] /ˈpeɪstbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* [U] flat stiff cardboard made by pasting sheets of paper together

pasteboard[2] *adj* [A] *derog* lacking strength or reality; CARDBOARD[2] (2): *a play full of pasteboard characters*

pas·tel[1] /ˈpæstl‖pæˈstel/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a small stick of) a solid chalklike substance made of powdery colouring matter used for drawing **2** [C] a picture drawn using this substance **3** [C] any soft light colour

pastel[2] *adj* [A] **1** drawn in pastels **2** soft and light in colour: *pastel shades | pastel blue*

pas·tern /ˈpæstɜːn‖-ɜːrn/ *n* the narrow upper part of a horse's foot, above the HOOF —see picture at HORSE

Pas·ter·nak /ˈpæstənæk‖-tər-/, **Bor·is** /ˈbɒrˌəs‖ˈbɔː-/ (1890–1960) a Russian poet, NOVELIST, and translator who wrote *Doctor Zhivago*, which was banned (BAN) in the USSR. In 1958 he won the Nobel Prize, but the Soviet government of the time did not approve and he did not accept it.

paste-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* pieces of printed matter, pictures, etc., stuck in position (as if) on a page, either to be photographed for a real page or to show what the page will look like when the book, newspaper, etc., is produced

Pas·teur /pæˈstɜːr/, **Louis** (1822–95) a French scientist known for his studies of FERMENTATION and bacteria; inventor of the process of pasteurization

pas·teur·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpæstʃəraɪz, ˈpɑː-, -stə-‖ˈpæstʃə-, -stə-/ *v* [T] to heat (a liquid) in a certain way in order to destroy bacteria: *pasteurized milk* —**-ization** /ˌpæstʃəraɪˈzeɪʃən, ˌpɑː-, -stə-‖ˌpæstʃərə-, -stərə-/ *n* [U]

pas·tiche /pæˈstiːʃ/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a work of art, such as a piece of writing or music, that is purposely made in the style of a another writer, musician, etc. **2** [C] a work of art made up of pieces of various other works put together **3** [U] the style or practice of making works of art in either of these ways

pas·tille /pæˈstiːl/ ‖ also **lozenge** *esp. AmE*— *n* a small round hard sweet, esp. one containing a medicine for a sore throat

pas·time /ˈpɑːstaɪm‖ˈpæs-/ *n* something done to pass one's time in a pleasant way: *Listening to music is my favourite pastime.*

past·ing /ˈpeɪstɪŋ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* **1** a hard beating: *You'll get a real pasting if the teacher finds out what you've done!* **2** (in sport or other sorts of competition) a severe defeat

past mas·ter /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [(**at, in, of**)] a person who is very clever or skilled in a particular subject or action: *He's a past master at getting free drinks|in the art of conversation.*

pas·tor /ˈpɑːstəʳ‖ˈpæ-/ *n* a Christian religious leader in charge of a church and its members, esp. in a Protestant church, other than the Church of England

pas·tor·al[1] /ˈpɑːstərəl‖ˈpæ-/ *adj* **1** of the members of a religious group, or its leader's duties towards them: *The priest|rabbi makes* **pastoral visits** *every Tuesday. | a teacher's* **pastoral duties** (=giving advice on personal matters rather than educational matters) **2** *esp. lit* concerning simple peaceful country life: *a charming pastoral scene of cows drinking from a stream | pastoral poetry* **3** (of land) grassy; suitable for feeding sheep and cattle

pastoral[2] also **pastoral let·ter** /ˌ··· ˈ··/— *n tech* an official letter sent by a BISHOP to the church members in his area

past par·ti·ci·ple /ˌ· ˈ····/ also **perfect participle**— *n tech* (in grammar) a PARTICIPLE that can be used in compound forms of the verb to show the PASSIVE or the PERFECT[1] (6) tenses (such as *broken* in *The cup was broken by John* or *I have broken the cup*) or sometimes as an adjective (such as *broken* in *a broken cup*)

past per·fect /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **pluperfect**— *n* [*the*] *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows that the action described by the verb was completed before a particular time in the past (stated or understood), formed in English with **had** and a past participle —**past perfect** *adj*

pas·tra·mi /pəˈstrɑːmi/ *n* [U] (esp. in the US) very strong-tasting BEEF dried in smoke

pas·try /ˈpeɪstri/ *n* **1** [U] a mixture of flour, fat, milk or water, and sometimes sugar, eaten when baked, used esp. to enclose other foods: *The pie crust is made of pastry.* **2** [C] an article of food, esp. a small sweet cake, made wholly or partly of this —see also DANISH PASTRY

pas·tur·age /ˈpɑːstʃərɪdʒ‖ˈpæs-/ *n* [U] **1** the right to use land for feeding one's cattle, horses, etc. **2** also **pas·ture·land** /ˈpɑːstʃəlænd‖ˈpæstʃər-/— (natural) grassland suitable for feeding cattle on

pas·ture[1] /ˈpɑːstʃəʳ‖ˈpæs-/ **pas·ture·land** /ˈpɑːstʃəlænd‖ˈpæstʃər-/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a piece of) grassy land where farm animals feed: *the rolling pastures of southern England | We're putting our cattle* **out to pasture.** (=to feed on grass) | (fig.) *It's about time this old sewing machine was* **put out to pasture.** (=got rid of) —compare ARABLE **2 fresh fields and pastures new** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from a poem by John Milton, used when saying that someone is moving on to a new place or a new activity

pasture[2] *v* **1** [T] to put (farm animals) in a pasture to feed: *He's pasturing his cattle on the top meadow.* **2** [I(**on**)] (of cattle, sheep, etc.) to feed on an area of growing grass; GRAZE[1]

pas·ty[1] /ˈpæsti/ *n BrE* a small case of pastry, filled usu. with meat —see also CORNISH PASTY

past·y[2] /ˈpeɪsti/ *adj* (of the face) white and unhealthy in appearance

pasty-faced /ˈpeɪsti feɪst/ *adj usu. derog* having a white and unhealthy-looking face

pat[1] /pæt/ *n* **1** [C] a light stroke with the flat hand, usu. showing friendliness and not intended to hurt: *He gave the dog a pat as he walked past.* **2** [S] a sound made by hitting something lightly with a flat object **3** [C (**of**)] a small shaped mass, esp. of butter **4 a pat on the back** *infml* an expression of praise or satisfaction for something done: *We don't want a pat on the back from the management – we want more money!*

pat[2] *v* **-tt-** [T] **1** to touch or strike gently and repeatedly with the flat hand or a flat object, often to show, friendliness, sympathy, etc.: *He patted the dog. | She patted her hair to make sure it was tidy.* **2 pat someone/oneself on the back** *infml* to praise someone/oneself for doing something well

pat[3] *adv often derog* **1** without delay, as if already prepared: *The answer came pat.* **2 have/know something (off) pat** *BrE* ‖ **have something down pat** *AmE*— to know something thoroughly and have it ready in one's mind so that one can say it or write it immediately and without having to think

pat[4] *adj often derog* (esp. of words) coming (too) easily or readily, as if already prepared: *His explanation was too pat to be convincing.*

patch[1] /pætʃ/ *n* **1** an often irregularly shaped part of a surface or space that is different, esp. in colour, from the surface or space round it: *The dog's coat is white with black patches. | wet patches on the wall | Patches of mist can be expected at dawn.* **2** a usu. small piece of material used to cover a hole or a damaged place: *He had a patch on the elbow of his jacket.* **3** a usu. small piece of ground, esp. as used for growing vegetables: *a potato patch* **4** a period of experience of the stated kind, esp. a time of trouble or misfortune: *Art in Britain is* **going through a bad patch** *at the moment. | Their marriage seems to have* **hit a difficult patch. 5** also **eyepatch**— a protective piece of material worn over an eye that has been hurt **6** *BrE infml* a usu. small area in which someone, esp. a policeman, always works and which he/she knows very well **7** also **beauty patch, beauty spot**— (in the 17th and 18th centuries) a small round usu. black piece of silk or other material worn on the face, to show up the beauty of the skin **8** *AmE* a small piece of cloth with words or a picture on it: *a windbreaker with patches on it from all the places they had visited* **9 in patches** in parts; not completely: *This film was good in patches, but I didn't like all of it.* —see also PATCHY (2) **10 not a patch on** *BrE infml* not nearly as good as: *This Algerian wine isn't a patch on the French.*

patch[2] *v* [T] to put a PATCH[1] (2) on (a hole, worn place, etc.), esp. in (a garment): *patched trousers*

patch sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to settle (a quarrel or disagreement): *We managed to patch up our quarrel.* **2** to mend or repair quickly or roughly, esp. with a PATCH[1] (2): *patched-up jeans* | (fig.) *The doctors patched up the wounded soldiers and sent them back to the front again.*

patch·ou·li , patchouly /ˈpætʃʊli, pəˈtʃuːli/ *n* the ESSENTIAL OIL from an E Indian heavy-smelling plant

patch pock·et /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a pocket made by sewing a square piece of material onto the outside of a garment

patch·work /ˈpætʃwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) sewn work made by joining together a number of pieces of cloth of different colours, patterns, and shapes: *a patchwork quilt|blanket* | (fig.) *From the aircraft we could see a patchwork of fields of different shapes and colours.*

patch·y /ˈpætʃi/ *adj* **1** made up of or appearing in patches (PATCH[1] (1)): *The sun has faded the curtains so the colours are rather patchy.* | *There will be patchy fog at dawn.* **2** *usu. derog* **a** incomplete: *My knowledge of science is patchy.* **b** only good in parts: *The concert was patchy.* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

pate /peɪt/ *n old use or humor* the top of the head: *his bald pate*

pât·é /ˈpæteɪ‖pɑːˈteɪ, pæ-/ *n* [U] a food made by crushing solid foods, esp. LIVER, into a smooth soft mass —compare PASTE[1] (3)

pâté de foie gras /ˌpæteɪ də ˌfwɑː ˈgrɑː‖pɑːˌteɪ-, pæ-/ also **foie gras** *infml*— *n* [U] *Fr* pâté made from the LIVER of a GOOSE which has been fed a lot to make it fat. The best types are expensive and it is considered a LUXURY food.

pa·tel·la /pəˈtelə/ *n med for* KNEECAP[1] (1) —see picture at SKELETON

pa·tent[1] /ˈpeɪtnt, ˈpæ-‖ˈpæ-/ *adj* **1** *fml* (esp. of feelings or qualities) easy and plain to see; OBVIOUS: *his patent lack of honesty* **2** [A] protected, by a PATENT[2] (1), from being copied or sold by those who do not have a right to do so: *a patent lock* **3** [A] *infml* (of some act or skill invented by a particular person) cleverly made or done: *his patent way of making mayonnaise*

patent[2] *n* **1** a paper from the Patent Office of a government giving someone the right to make or sell a new invention for a certain number of years: *This new machine is protected* **by patent;** *the inventor has* **taken out a patent on** *it.* **2** the right given in such a paper: *The patent runs out in two years' time.*

patent[3] *v* [T] to obtain a PATENT[2] (1) for: *If you don't patent your invention, someone might steal the idea.*

pa·tent·ee /ˌpeɪtnˈtiː‖ˌpæ-/ *n esp. law* a person to whom a PATENT[2] (1) is given

patent leath·er /ˌpeɪtnt ˈleðəʳ◂‖ˌpæ-/ *n* [U] fine thin very shiny leather, usu. black: *patent-leather shoes*

pa·tent·ly /ˈpeɪtntli‖ˈpæ-/ *adv fml* (of something bad) clearly and plainly: *He was patently lying.* | *It was patently obvious that he was lying.* | *a patently false statement*

patent medi·cine /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a medicine which can be bought without a PRESCRIPTION (=a written order from a doctor saying that a person needs a particular medicine)

Patent Of·fice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] the British or American government department that decides which new inventions can be given patents. In the US the official name is the Patent and Trademark Office.

pa·ter /ˈpeɪtəʳ/ *n BrE* (*sometimes cap.*) father: *Good morning, pater.* The word was formerly used by young UPPERCLASS people, esp. by boys at PUBLIC SCHOOL; now rarely used except humorously —compare MATER

pa·ter·fa·mi·li·as /ˌpeɪtəfəˈmiːliæs‖ˌpɑːtərfəˈmiːliəs/ *n* **patresfamilias** /ˌpɑːtreɪz-/ *fml or pomp* (a person acting as) the father or male head of a family

pa·ter·nal /pəˈtɜːnl‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** of, like, or natural to a father: *paternal love* —compare FATHERLY **2** *derog* protecting people and satisfying their needs but without allowing them any freedom or responsibility: *The employees resented the bosses' paternal attitude.* **3** [A] related through the father's side of the family: *my paternal grandmother* (=my father's mother) —compare MATERNAL —**~ly** *adv*

pa·ter·nal·is·m /pəˈtɜːnəl-ɪzəm‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] *derog* a PATERNAL (2) way of controlling people, managing a company, etc. —**-ist** *n* —**-istic** /pəˌtɜːnəlˈɪstɪk◂‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* —**-istically** /kli/ *adv*

pa·ter·ni·ty /pəˈtɜːnɨti‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] **1** *esp. law* origin from the male parent: *Tests are being made to establish the paternity of the child.* (=to find out who its father is) **2** *fml* fatherhood: *Paternity suits you!* —compare MATERNITY[1] (1)

paternity leave /·ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [U] time off work for the father of a new baby to help with its care. Very few British or American employers give paternity leave. —compare MATERNITY LEAVE

pa·ter·nos·ter /ˌpætəˈnɒstəʳ‖-təˈnɑː-/ *n* (*usu. cap.*) (in the Christian religion) the LORD'S PRAYER, esp. in Latin (from the Latin for the first two words of the prayer which begins "Our Father...")

path /pɑːθ‖pæθ/ **paths** /pɑːðz‖pæðz/ *n* **1** also **pathway**— a track or way made by or for people walking over the ground: *They strolled along|down the garden path.* | *Walk on the path, not on the grass|in the road.* | (fig.) *Hard work is the* **pathway to** *success.* | (fig.) *I will withdraw my objections, because I don't want to* **stand in your path.** (=block your possible success) **2** [(**through**)] an open space made to allow forward movement: *They used axes to clear a path through the forest.* **3** [(**of**)] a line along which something moves: *The path of an arrow is a curve.* —see also **beat a path** (BEAT[1]), **lead someone up the garden path** (LEAD[1]); see WAY (USAGE) —**~less** *adj*

Pa·than /pəˈtɑːn/ *n, adj* (a member) of a group of people living esp. in Afghanistan and the western part of Pakistan

pa·thet·ic /pəˈθetɪk/ *adj* **1** causing a feeling of pity or sorrow; full of PATHOS: *the little dog's pathetic cries of pain* **2** *derog* hopelessly unsuccessful; useless: *my pathetic attempts to learn French* | *He's a pathetic actor.* —**~ally** /kli/ *adv* : *pathetically inadequate*

pathetic fal·la·cy /·ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [*the*+S] *tech* (esp. in a work of literature) the describing of non-living things, such as rocks, the sea, the weather, etc., as if they were human, e.g. by calling them "cruel", "happy", etc.

path·find·er /ˈpɑːθˌfaɪndəʳ‖ˈpæθ-/ *n* **1** a person who goes on ahead of a group and finds the best way through unknown land **2** a person who discovers new ways of doing things

path·o·log·i·cal /ˌpæθəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* **1** *med* of PATHOLOGY **2** *med* caused by disease, esp. of the mind **3** *infml* unreasonable and unnatural; going on for a long time and out of control: *a pathological fear of the dark* | *a pathological liar* —**~ly** /kli/ *adv* : *pathologically jealous*

pa·thol·o·gist /pəˈθɒlədʒɨst‖-ˈθɑː-/ *n med* a person, esp. a doctor, who is a specialist in pathology

pa·thol·o·gy /pəˈθɒlədʒi‖-ˈθɑː-/ *n* [U] *med* the study of the causes and effects of illnesses

pa·thos /ˈpeɪθɒs‖-θɑːs/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* the quality in a situation, a person, or in something said or written that causes a feeling of pity and sorrow

path·way /ˈpɑːweɪ‖ˈpæθ-/ *n* a PATH (1)

pa·tience /ˈpeɪʃəns/ *n* [U] **1 a** the ability to wait calmly for a long time and not be made angry by delay: *You need patience if you want to get served in this shop.* **b** the ability to accept pain, trouble, or anything that causes annoyance, without complaining or losing one's self-control: *The teacher had no patience with the less intelligent pupils.* | *The continual noise from the road repairs is beginning to* **try my patience.** (=make me lose my patience) **2** (the power of showing) care and close attention to work that is difficult or tiring: *I wouldn't have the patience to sit mending watches all day.* **3** ‖ also **solitaire** *AmE*— a card game for one player

pa·tient[1] /ˈpeɪʃənt/ *adj* [(**with**)] having or showing patience —opposite **impatient** —**~ly** *adv*

patient[2] *n* a person receiving medical treatment from a doctor and/or in a hospital —see CUSTOMER (USAGE)

Patient's Char·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a British government-written statement of the rights of people who use the National Health Service. Most parts of it became effective in 1992

pat·i·na /ˈpætɨnə/ *n* [S;U] **1** a usu. green surface covering formed naturally on copper or BRONZE **2** a pleasingly smooth shiny surface that gradually develops on wood, walls, etc.: (fig.) *the patina of wealth*

pat·i·o /ˈpætiəʊ/ *n* **-os** an open space with a stone floor next to a house, used for sitting on or eating on in fine weather —compare TERRACE, VERANDA

patio doors /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [P] sliding doors which are usu. made of glass and open from a living room onto a patio

pa·tis·se·rie /pəˈtiːsəri/ *n* [C;U] (a shop that sells) French-style cakes, etc.

pa·tois /ˈpætwɑː/ *n* **-tois** /twɑːz/ [C;U] a form of spoken language used by the people of a small area, which is

different from the national language, esp. if felt to be non-standard

Pa·ton /ˈpeɪtn/, **Al·an** /ˈælən/ (1903–88) a South African writer and politician best known for the NOVEL *Cry, the Beloved Country*

pa·tri·al /ˈpeɪtriəl, ˈpæ-/ *n esp. BrE* someone who for special reasons, esp. because one of their parents or their grandfather or grandmother was born in the United Kingdom, has a legal right to settle in the United Kingdom

pa·tri·arch /ˈpeɪtriɑːk‖-ɑːrk/ *n* **1** an old and much-respected man, esp. one who is the head of a family –compare MATRIARCH **2 a** a BISHOP in the early Christian church **b** (*usu. cap.*) a chief bishop of the Eastern churches: *the Patriarch of Jerusalem*

pa·tri·arch·al /ˌpeɪtriˈɑːkəl◂‖-ˈɑːr-/ *adj* **1** ruled or controlled only by men: *a patriarchal society* **2** of or like a patriarch –compare MATRIARCHAL

pa·tri·arch·y /ˈpeɪtriɑːki‖-ɑːr-/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an example of) a social system in which the oldest man is head of the family, and passes power and possessions on to his sons **2** (an example of) a social system in which men hold all the power and use it only for their own advantage – compare MATRIARCHY

pa·tri·cian[1] /pəˈtrɪʃən/ *n* **1** a member of the governing classes in ancient Rome **2** *sometimes derog or apprec* a nobleman; ARISTOCRAT –compare PLEBEIAN

patrician[2] *adj* **1** belonging to the governing classes in ancient Rome **2** *sometimes derog* of or like a PATRICIAN[1] (2): *patrician aloofness*

pat·ri·cide /ˈpætrɪsaɪd/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the murder of one's father **2** [C] *tech* a person guilty of this crime –compare MATRICIDE, PARRICIDE

Patrick, Saint see SAINT PATRICK

pat·ri·mo·ny /ˈpætrɪməni‖-məʊni/ *n* [S;U] *fml* property inherited (INHERIT) from one's father, grandfather, etc. –compare MATRIMONY –**-nial** /ˌpætrɪˈməʊniəl◂/ *adj*

pat·ri·ot /ˈpætriət, -triɒt, ˈpeɪ-‖ˈpeɪtriət, -triɑːt/ *n usu. apprec* someone who loves and is willing to defend their country

Patriot *n* a MISSILE system used against Iraqi missiles in the Gulf War: *Patriot missiles*

pat·ri·ot·ic /ˌpætriˈɒtɪk◂, ˌpeɪ-‖ˌpeɪtriˈɑːtɪk◂/ *adj usu. apprec* having or expressing the qualities of a patriot: *He's very patriotic.* | *patriotic songs* – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pat·ri·ot·is·m /ˈpætriətɪzəm, ˈpeɪ-‖ˈpeɪ-/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* love for and loyalty to one's country

pa·trol[1] /pəˈtrəʊl/ *n* **1** [U] the act of patrolling or a period of patrolling: *Warships were* **on patrol** *in the North Atlantic.* | *During the night, security guards make regular patrols of the factory premises.* **2** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a small group, esp. of soldiers, aircraft, warships, etc., sent out to search for the enemy or to protect a place from the enemy: *The patrol has/have reported that all is quiet.* **3** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a small group of SCOUTS[1] (1) or GUIDES[1] (5) within the TROOP[1] (3) **4** ‖ *AmE* also **safety patrol**– a child given responsibility for the safety of other children on the school bus and on the walk to and from school. Safety patrols usu. wear bright orange belts. **5** *AmE* (in some states of the US) a police force: *the Illinois State Patrol*

patrol[2] *v* **-ll-** [I+*adv/prep*;T] to go at regular times round (an area, building, etc.) to see that there is no trouble, that no one is trying to get in or out illegally, etc.: *Guards patrolled the prison's perimeter fence.* | *The grounds of the presidential palace are patrolled by soldiers with guard dogs.* | (fig.) *Gangs of youths patrol* (=walk threateningly along) *the streets on Saturday nights.*

patrol car /·ˈ· ·/ *n* a car used by the police for patrolling roads

pa·trol·man /pəˈtrəʊlmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** *esp. AmE* a policeman who regularly patrols a particular area **2** *BrE* a person working for a car-owners' association who drives along roads to give help to motorists who need it: *an AA patrolman*

patrol wag·on /·ˈ· ˌ··/ also **paddy wagon** *infml*– *n AmE* a police vehicle used to carry prisoners, e.g. to and from court; BLACK MARIA

pa·tron /ˈpeɪtrən/ **pat·ron·ess** /-nɪs/ *fem.*– *n* **1** [(**of**)] a person or group that supports and gives money to an organization or activity that is regarded as valuable and deserving support: *a patron of the arts* **2** *fml or polite* a person who uses a particular shop, hotel, etc., esp. regularly: *a special offer for our regular patrons* –compare CUSTOMER (1)

pat·ron·age /ˈpætrənɪdʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the support given by a PATRON (1) **2** *fml* the trade and support received from a PATRON (2) **3** *sometimes derog* the right to appoint people to important positions, esp. without regard to their ability

pat·ron·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpætrənaɪz‖ˈpeɪ-, ˈpæ-/ *v* [T] **1** *derog* to behave towards (someone) as if one were better or more important than them: *Don't patronize me; I know just as much about it as you do.* | *a patronizing remark/smile* **2** *fml* to use or visit (a shop, theatre, etc.): *I won't patronize this shop any more; the assistants are so rude.*

patron saint /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [(**of**)] a Christian SAINT who is regarded as giving special protection to a particular place, activity, etc.: *Saint Christopher is the patron saint of travellers.*

pat·ro·nym·ic /ˌpætrəˈnɪmɪk/ *n, adj tech* (a name) formed from the name of one's father, grandfather, etc.

pat·sy /ˈpætsi/ *n esp. AmE infml derog* a person who is tricked or deceived, esp. into taking all the blame or punishment for something

pat·ten /ˈpætn/ *n* a CLOG (=a wooden shoe), with pieces of iron on the bottom worn, esp. formerly, when walking over wet or muddy ground

Patten, Chris /krɪs/ (1944–) a British Conservative politician who became Environment Secretary in 1989 and then Chairman of the Conservative Party. He lost his seat in Parliament in the 1992 general election and became GOVERNOR of Hong Kong later that year.

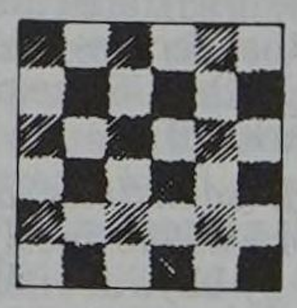
pat·ter[1] /ˈpætəʳ/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] to make, or move while making, the soft sound of something hitting a surface lightly, quickly, and repeatedly: *The dog pattered down the stairs/across the hall.* | *The falling leaves pattered against the window panes.*

patter[2] *n* **1** [S (**of**)] a sound of something pattering: *the patter of the rain on the tent* | *They will soon be hearing* **the patter of tiny feet.** (=they are going to have a baby) **2** [S;U] very fast continuous often amusing talk, esp. as used by someone trying to sell something, a magician while doing tricks, or someone telling jokes; one would not trust this talk: *She wasn't taken in by the salesman's patter.* **3** [U] the language, words, etc., used by a particular class of people, esp. criminals: *thieves' patter*

patterns



herringbone



checked



zigzag







pat·tern[1] /ˈpætən‖ˈpætərn/ *n* **1 a** a regularly repeated arrangement of lines, shapes, or colours on a surface, that has, or is intended to have, a decorative or pleasing effect: *The cloth has a pattern of red and white squares.* | *snowflakes forming a pattern on the windowpane* **b** any regularly repeated arrangement, e.g. of sounds or words –compare DESIGN **2** the way in which something happens or develops: *The illness is not following its usual pattern.* | *a strange pattern of events* | *behavioural patterns that are typical of this social group* **3** a small piece of

cloth, paper, etc., that shows what a large piece (of usual size) will look like; SAMPLE **4** a shape used as a guide for making something, esp. a piece of paper used to show the shape of a part of a garment: *a dress pattern* **5** [*usu. sing.*] a person, thing, or form that is an example to copy: *The success of the course* **set a pattern** *for the training of new employees.* —compare MODEL[1] (4)

pattern[2] *v* [T] **1** [**(with)**] to make a decorative pattern on: *patterned curtain material | patterned with roses* **2** [*+obj+adv|prep*, esp. **after, on, upon**] *fml* to form the character, qualities, etc., of (esp. oneself) by copying: *He patterned himself upon a man he admired.*

Pat·ton /ˈpætn/, **George Smith** (1885–1945) an American army general. He was an important commander during the First World War and the Second World War and was sometimes called "Old Blood and Guts".

pat·ty /ˈpæti/ *n* **1** *BrE* a small PIE or PASTY **2** food cut into very small pieces, formed into small flat shapes, and cooked: *beef patties*

patty melt /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a flat round piece of finely cut BEEF, cooked with cheese on top and served on bread

pau·ci·ty /ˈpɔːsəti/ *n* [S **(of)**] *fml* less than is needed; a lack; DEARTH: *a paucity of good ideas*

Paul —see SAINT PAUL

Pau·ling /ˈpɔːlɪŋ/ **Li·nus** /ˈlaɪnəs/ (1901–) an American scientist noted for his work on how chemicals join together and for his opposition to the testing of NUCLEAR weapons. He won the Nobel prize for chemistry and the Nobel Peace Prize.

paunch /pɔːntʃ/ *n derog or humor* a fat stomach, esp. a man's: *He seems to be developing a paunch.* —**~y** *adj* —**~iness** *n* [U]

pau·per /ˈpɔːpəʳ/ *n* a very poor person, esp. one who in former times received official help

pause[1] /pɔːz/ *n* **1** [**(in)**] a short but noticeable break in activity, speech, etc.: *a pause in the conversation | They worked for almost six hours without a pause.* **2** a mark ( ) over a musical note, showing that the note is to be played or sung longer than usual **3 give someone pause** to cause someone to stop and consider carefully what they are doing

pause[2] *v* [I] to make a pause; stop for a short time before continuing: *I had to pause for breath|to get my breath back.*

pa·vane /pəˈvæn, ˈpævən‖pəˈvɑːn, pəˈvæn/ *n* (the music for) a formal COURTLY dance of the 16th and 17th centuries

Pav·a·rot·ti /ˌpævəˈrɒti‖-ˈrɑː-/, **Lu·cia·no** /luːˈtʃɑːnəʊ/ (1935–) an Italian OPERA singer, considered to be one of the world's leading TENORS (=men with high singing voices), who has also given many concerts —see colour picture on page 554

pave /peɪv/ *v* [T **(with)** *usu. pass.*] **1** to cover (a path, area, etc.) with a hard level surface, esp. of PAVING STONES: *a paved courtyard | country boys who thought the streets of London were* **paved with gold** (=that London was a place of wealth and success) **2 pave the way for|to** to prepare for or make possible: *The agreement paves the way for a lasting peace.*

pave·ment /ˈpeɪvmənt/ *n* **1** *BrE* a paved surface or path at the side of a street for people to walk on; SIDEWALK —see picture at HOUSE **2** *AmE* the hard surface of a street **3** a paved surface of any sort; PAVING (2)

pavement art·ist /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **sidewalk artist** *AmE* — *n* a person who draws pictures on a pavement with coloured chalk, hoping that people passing will give money

pavement caf·é /ˈ·· ˌ··‖ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **sidewalk cafe** *AmE* — *n* a CAFE (=restaurant serving light meals and drinks) with tables outside

pa·vil·ion /pəˈvɪljən/ *n* **1** *esp. BrE* a building beside a sports field, esp. a cricket field, for the use of the players and those watching the game **2** a large structure, lightly built and intended to be used for only a short time, used for public amusements or EXHIBITIONS: *the British pavilion at the World Trade Fair*

pav·ing /ˈpeɪvɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] material used to pave a surface **2** [U] a paved surface of any sort; PAVEMENT (3) **3** [C *usu. pl.*] a paving stone —see also CRAZY PAVING

pavement café



paving stone /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a piece of flat stone, fitted close to other such stones to form a pavement

Pav·lov /ˈpævlɒv‖-lɑːv/, **I·van Pet·ro·vich** /ˈaɪvən ˈpetrəvɪtʃ/ (1849–1936) a Russian scientist best known for his work with dogs which proved the existence of the CONDITIONED REFLEX. Whenever he was going to feed the dogs he rang a bell, and the dogs soon started to get excited and want food when they heard the bell. —**-Pavlovian** /pævˈləʊviən/ *adj*

pav·lo·va /pævˈləʊvə‖pɑːv-/ *n* a light cake made of MERINGUE, cream, and fruit esp. popular in Australia. It is thought to have been invented to celebrate a visit to Australia or New Zealand by Anna Pavlova.

Pavlova, An·na /ˈænə/ (1885–1931) a Russian BALLET dancer esp. remembered for her dancing of *The Dying Swan*. She is considered by many to have been the world's greatest ballet dancer.

paw[1] /pɔː/ *n* **1** an animal's foot that has nails or CLAWS: *a lion's paw* —compare HOOF **2** *infml, esp. humor* a human hand: *Go and wash your dirty paws!*

paw[2] *v* [I **(at)**;T] **1** (of an animal) to touch or rub (a surface), esp. repeatedly, with a paw or HOOF, showing anger, fear, impatience, etc.: *The dog was pawing (at) the door, trying to get out. | an angry bull pawing the ground* **2** *infml* (of a person) to feel or touch with the hands, esp. in a rough and sexually improper manner: *She wanted to watch the film, but he kept pawing her.*

paw·ky /ˈpɔːki/ *adj esp. BrE* amusing in an odd clever way, so that one cannot tell whether the thing said was meant to be funny or serious: *The Scots are famous for their pawky humour.* —**-kily** *adv* —**-kiness** *n* [U]

pawn[1] /pɔːn/ *v* [T] to leave (something of value) with a pawnbroker as a promise that one will repay the money he has lent one: *He had to pawn his watch to pay for a meal.*

pawn[2] *n* [U] the state of having been pawned: *My watch is* **in pawn**.

pawn[3] *n* **1** any of the eight smallest and least valuable playing pieces in the game of CHESS —see picture at CHESS **2** [**(in)**] an unimportant person used by someone else for their own advantage: *I was merely a pawn in his cunning stratagem.*

pawn·bro·ker /ˈpɔːnˌbrəʊkəʳ/ *n* a person to whom people bring valuable articles so that he will lend them money, and who has the right to sell the articles if the money is not repaid within a certain time. Pawnbrokers usu. lend less money than the value of the article and sell it at a profit if the owner cannot REDEEM it (=get it back by paying the money lent, with some extra money charged by the pawnbroker).

Paw·nee /pɔːˈniː/ *n* [C;*the*+P] (a member of) a Native American people who live on the PLAINS of the US, mainly now in Oklahoma —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

pawn·shop /ˈpɔːnʃɒp‖-ʃɑːp/ *n* a pawnbroker's place of business. The sign for a pawnshop is three golden balls. In former times every town had a pawnshop, but they are now much less common. The pawnshop was the only place where poor people could borrow money, and poor families would sometimes have something such as a piece of furniture or clothing that was regularly pawned when money was needed.

paw·paw /ˈpɔːpɔː/ *n esp. BrE and CarE for* PAPAYA

Pax A·mer·i·ca·na /ˌpæks əmerɨˈkɑːnə/ the peace supposed

to be established in the world by the presence of the power of the United States

Pax Bri·tan·ni·ca /ˌpæks brɪˈtænɪkə/ [(the)] the peace supposed to be established by British rule in the days of the British Empire

PAXO /ˈpæksəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* (in Britain) a type of dried STUFFING, cooked and eaten esp. with turkey at Christmas

pay[1] /peɪ/ *v* **paid** /peɪd/ **1** [I;T (**for, to**)] to give (money) to (someone) in exchange for goods that one has bought, services that have been provided, or work that has been done: *She tried to leave the shop without paying (for the dress).* | *How soon can you pay me (for the work)?* | *The bank pays interest of 9% on savings.* | *We get paid by the hour|on Friday.* | *How much did you pay for that car?* | *"Are you* **paying cash?"** *"No, I'll* **pay by cheque."** | **I paid £200 for the painting.** [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I paid him £200 (for this painting).* | *I paid it to him in instalments.* | *I'll pay you (£3) to clean my car.* | (fig.) *This washing machine should* **pay for itself** *within a year.* (=will make it possible to save the same amount of money as was needed to buy it) —see also PAY **for** **2** [T] to give (money that is owed); settle (a bill, debt, etc.): *Have you paid the electricity bill yet?* | *to pay one's taxes|train fare* **3** [T (IN, **into**)] to put (money, a cheque, etc.) into a bank, an account, etc., to be kept safe: *Have you paid the cheque in yet|paid it into your account yet?* **4** [I;T] to be profitable (to); produce advantage or gain that is worth the trouble or cost (to): *We must make the farm pay, or we'll have to sell it.* | *Crime doesn't pay.* | *It won't pay (you) to argue with her.* **5** [I+*adv*] (of work, something done, etc.) to bring or give one money or something of value in return: *This job pays well.* | *a poorly-paid jo* **6** [T (**to**)] to give, offer, or make: *I shall* **pay a call** *on you tomorrow.* | **Pay attention** *to what I'm saying!* | *He certainly knows how to* **pay a compliment**. | *He* **paid his respects** *to the bishop.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I'll* **pay you a visit** *next week.* **7 pay one's way** to pay money for things as one buys them so as not to get into debt **8 he who pays the piper calls the tune** *saying* the person who is paying for something can choose what it will be like **9 pay through the nose (for)** *infml* to pay far too much (for) —~**er** *n*

pay sbdy./sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T (**for**)] **1** to return (what is owing) to (someone); REPAY: *I'll pay you back tomorrow.* | *They can't pay back the loan.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Have I paid you back the £10 I borrowed|paid the £10 back to you?* **2** also **pay out** *BrE old-fash*— to return bad treatment, rudeness, etc., to (someone who has done something wrong to oneself): *I'll pay him back for what he did to me!*

pay for sthg. *phr v* [T] to receive punishment or suffering for: *These people must be made to pay for their crimes.* | *He* **paid dearly** *for his unfaithfulness to her.* | (fig.) *We are paying for the fine summer with a wet winter.* [+*v-ing*] *I'll make him pay for ruining my chances.*

pay (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **off** *phr v* **1** [T] to pay the whole of (a debt) **2** [T] to pay and dismiss from a job: *His work was most unsatisfactory, so we paid him off at the end of the week.* **3** [T] to pay (someone) to keep silent about a wrong or illegal act **4** [I] to be successful: *Did your plan pay off?* —see also PAYOFF

pay (sbdy./sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**pay** sthg. ↔ **out**)] to make a usu. large payment in return for (goods or services): *I paid out a lot of money for that car.* | *It's always me who has to pay out.* **2** [T] (**pay** sthg. ↔ **out**) to allow (esp. a rope) to be pulled out gradually to a greater length **3** [T] (**pay** sbdy. ↔ **out**) *BrE old-fash for* PAY **back** (2) —see also PAYOUT

pay sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T (**to**)] to make formal payment of (money)

pay up *phr v* [I] to pay money that is owed, esp. unwillingly or late —compare PAID-UP

pay[2] *n* [U] **1** money received in exchange for work: *He gets his pay each Thursday.* | *They are negotiating for a pay increase|rise.* | *It's interesting work but the pay isn't very good.* | *holiday|sick pay* (=money given by an employer when one is on holiday or ill) **2 in the pay of** *esp. derog* employed by or working for: *an informer who is in the pay of the police*

▷ USAGE **Pay** is a general word for the money you receive for work, but **income** means any money you receive regularly, whether from work or from rents, etc.: *Have you any* **income** *apart from your pay?* A **salary** is paid monthly into the bank (especially to professional people) and **wages** are paid weekly in cash (especially to people who work with their hands). Money paid for certain professional services (e.g. to a lawyer) is a **fee.**◁

pay·a·ble /ˈpeɪəbəl/ *adj* [F] **1** (of a bill, debt, etc.) that must or may be paid: *This bill is payable now.* | *payable in advance* —compare RECEIVABLE (2) **2** [+**to**] (of a cheque) having written on it the name of a particular person to whom the stated amount of money will be paid

pay·bed /ˈpeɪbed/ *n BrE* a hospital bed in a publicly-owned hospital used by a person who does not pay for their treatment but who pays to have better conditions, e.g. a private room

pay·cheque *BrE* ‖ **paycheck** *AmE* /ˈpeɪ-tʃek/ *n* **1** [C] a cheque for a person's wages **2** [U] *esp. AmE* the amount of wages a person earns —compare PAY PACKET

pay·day /ˈpeɪdeɪ/ *n* [U] the day on which wages are paid

pay dirt /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* **1** earth found to contain valuable minerals, such as gold **2** a valuable or useful discovery

PAYE /ˌpiː eɪ waɪ ˈiː/ *n* [U] pay as you earn; a system by which income tax and National Insurance Contributions are taken away from wages before the wages are paid

pay·ee /peɪˈiː/ *n tech* a person to whom money, esp. a cheque, is or should be paid

pay en·ve·lope /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n AmE for* PAY PACKET (1)

paying guest /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a person who lives in a private house and pays rent to the owner; a LODGER

paying-in book /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **deposit book** *AmE*— *n* a book of forms used when paying money into one's account at a bank, or when making regular payments through the bank to another organization

pay·load /ˈpeɪləʊd/ *n* **1** (the weight of) the part of a load of a load-carrying vehicle for which payment is received **2** the amount of explosive in the head of a MISSILE **3** instruments and equipment carried in a spacecraft

pay·mas·ter /ˈpeɪˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæ-/ *n* **1** an official in a factory, the armed forces, etc., who pays wages to people **2** [*often pl.*] *derog* a person who pays someone to do usu. illegal work, and who therefore has control over the other person's actions: *He was forced by his paymasters in the secret service to keep quiet about these murders.*

Paymaster Gen·e·ral /ˌ··· ˈ···/ [*the*] the head of a British government department, the Paymaster General's Office, which provides bank services for other government departments

pay·ment /ˈpeɪmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of paying (PAY[1] (1,2,3)): *Here is a cheque* **in payment of** (=to pay) *my account.* | *We expect prompt payment.* | *The room can be reserved on payment of a small deposit.* | (fig.) *All the payment I got for my trouble was insults.* —see also NONPAYMENT **2** [C] an amount of money that has been or must be paid: *monthly mortgage payments of £300* —see also BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, DOWN PAYMENT

Payne /peɪn/, **Cyn·thi·a** /ˈsɪnθiə/ (1933–) a British woman who was tried, but found not guilty in 1987, for running a house of PROSTITUTES (=women who have sex for money). She was said to have had wild parties in her London home in which police took part, and the newspapers called her "Madame Cyn."

pay·off /ˈpeɪɒf‖-ɔːf/ *n* [(*the*) S] *infml* **1** the act or time of paying wages, debts, money won at cards, etc.: *He got a big payoff for agreeing to lose the game deliberately.* **2** the end of a number of connected acts, esp. the end of a story someone has been telling, when everything is explained —see also PAY **off**

pay·o·la /peɪˈəʊlə/ *n* [S;U] *infml, esp. AmE* (the practice of making) a secret or not direct payment in return for a business favour: *That disc jockey expects some payola for agreeing to plug a record on his radio show.*

pay·out /ˈpeɪ-aʊt/ *n infml* (an act of making) a usu. large payment of money: *a big payout on this month's lottery.* —see also PAY **out**

pay pack·et /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n BrE* **1** ‖ **pay envelope** *AmE*— an envelope containing a person's pay. People who are given their pay in this way are usu. BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS —see PAY[2] (USAGE) **2** ‖ **paycheque** *AmE* —the amount of wages a person earns: *a large pay packet*

pay phone /ˈ· ·/ *n* a public telephone inside a public building which one can use only after putting in a coin

pay rise /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **pay raise** *AmE*– *n* an increase in the amount one is paid for one's job

pay·roll /ˈpeɪrəʊl/ *n* **1** [C] a list of workers employed by a company and the amount of wages each person is to be paid: *He's no longer* **on their payroll**. (=no longer works for them) **2** [S] the total amount of wages paid to all the workers in a particular company

pay set·tle·ment /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* an agreement on pay reached between unions and managers usu. after long argument

pay·slip /ˈpeɪslɪp/ *n* a piece of paper showing the amount paid to an employed person and the amount remaining after tax, etc.

Pay·ton /ˈpeɪtn/, **Wal·ter** /ˈwɔːltəʳ/ (1954–) an American FOOTBALL (2) player who set records for running with the ball

PBS /ˌpiː biː ˈes/ *n* Public Broadcasting System; an American television company which is not run to make money and which broadcasts no advertising. It aims to put on good quality television programmes and is supported with money from people who watch these programmes, from the government, and from large companies. Two programmes for which PBS is known are *Sesame Street* and *Masterpiece Theatre*.

PC /ˌpiː ˈsiː/ *abbrev. for:* PERSONAL COMPUTER

P.C. /ˌpiː ˈsiː◂/ *n BrE* police constable; a policeman having the lowest rank: *P.C. Johnson | Two P.C.'s were attacked.* –see also W.P.C.

PCAS /ˈpiːkæs/ Polytechnics Central Admissions System; a British official organization which deals with people's requests to study at POLYTECHNICS

PCB /ˌpiː siː ˈbiː/ *n* POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL; one of several chemical compounds used in industry which are poisonous in the environment

PCC /ˌpiː siː ˈsiː/ *abbrev. for:* PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

pcm *abbrev* per calendar month; used when stating e.g. the amount of rent payable on a house, etc.

PCP /ˌpiː siː ˈpiː/ *n* [U] *AmE* **phencyclidine hydrochloride**; an ANAESTHETIC drug for animals which some people take illegally because it produces HALLUCINATIONS (=experiences of seeing things which are not really there)

pd *written abbrev. for:* PAID

Pde *written abbrev. for:* PARADE[1] (4)

PDQ /ˌpiː diː ˈkjuː/ *adv sl* pretty damn (or darn) quick; immediately: *If he doesn't get back here pdq there's going to be trouble.*

PDSA /ˌpiː diː es ˈeɪ/ [*the*] the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals; a British organization (CHARITY) which provides free treatment for sick animals, esp. pets, whose owners cannot afford to pay to take the animal to a VET

PDT /ˌpiː diː ˈtiː/ *abbrev. for:* PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME

PE /ˌpiː ˈiː/ *n* [U] physical education; PT

pea /piː/ *n* **1** a large round green seed which is cooked and eaten as a vegetable: *to shell peas* –see picture at VEGETABLE **2** a climbing plant which produces long green PODS containing these seeds **3 as like as two peas (in a pod)** *infml* (esp. of people) exactly the same in appearance – see also SWEET PEA

peace /piːs/ *n* **1** [S;U] a condition or period in which there is no war between two or more nations: *Both warring nations longed for peace. | a peace treaty* (=to end a war) | *a dangerous situation that threatens world peace | The peace movement campaigns for the banning of nuclear weapons.* **2** [*the*+S] a state of freedom from disorder within a country, with the citizens living according to the law: *The job of the police is to* **keep the peace**. | *The youths were arrested for a* **breach of the peace**. (=something, e.g. fighting, that breaks the public peace) **3** [U] **a** freedom from anxiety or troubling thoughts: *Knowing that she had arrived safely restored my* **peace of mind**. **b** freedom from unwanted noise or activity; calmness: *Please let me get on with my work in peace. | All I want is a bit of* **peace and quiet**. **4 at peace**: **a** in a state of quiet or calm **b** *euph* dead **5 hold one's peace** to remain silent even though one has something to say: *In spite of his provocative remarks, I held my peace.* **6 make one's peace with** to settle one's disagreements with **7 peace in our time** *quote* a phrase used by the British politician Neville Chamberlain after his meeting with Adolf Hitler in Munich in 1938, when he thought he had prevented war from breaking out –see also MUNICH AGREEMENT **8 peace with honour** *quote* a phrase made popular by the 19th-century British politician Disraeli **9 rest in peace** a phrase used to bless the dead, said during a funeral service or written on a GRAVESTONE

peace·a·ble /ˈpiːsəbəl/ *adj* **1** disliking argument or quarrelling **2** calm; free from disorder or fighting: *a peaceable agreement* –**bly** *adv*: *The two tribes live peaceably together.*

peace camp /ˈ· ·/ *n* a camp set up outside a military base, esp. one having NUCLEAR weapons, by people protesting against military activities

Peace Corps /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] an American government organization which sends VOLUNTEERS (=people who give their services without payment), esp. young people, with technical knowledge to help DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (=poor countries which are trying to build up their industry)

peace div·i·dend /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* the money saved on weapons and available for other purposes when a government reduces its military strength

peace·ful /ˈpiːsfəl/ *adj* **1** quiet and calm; untroubled: *a peaceful afternoon by the river* **2 a** without war: *The best we can hope for is a state of* **peaceful coexistence** *between East and West.* **b** without disorder: *a peaceful demonstration* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

peace·keep·ing /ˈpiːskiːpɪŋ/ *n* the preserving of peace esp. between states or peoples who were recently at war or are about to go to war: *a peacekeeping force|attempt*

peace·mak·er /ˈpiːsmeɪkəʳ/ *n Bibl* a person who tries to achieve peace between others who are fighting. In the Bible, it says "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

peace march /ˈ· ·/ *n* a march or other DEMONSTRATION by people who are protesting against violence or military activities: *The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament are organizing a peace march. | Protestants and Catholics united in a peace march and prayed for an end to violence in Northern Ireland.*

peace of·fer·ing /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n infml* something offered to show that one wants to be friendly, esp. with someone whom one has annoyed

peace pipe /ˈ· ·/ also **pipe of peace**– *n* a ceremonial tobacco pipe smoked by Native Americans as a sign of peace –see colour picture on page 358

peace·time /ˈpiːstaɪm/ *n* [U] a time when a nation is not at war: *Their armed forces have returned to peacetime levels.* –opposite **wartime**

peace wom·en /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n pl* a name given to the women at the peace camp at GREENHAM COMMON

peach /piːtʃ/ *n* **1** [C] (a tree that produces) a round fruit with soft yellowish-red skin, sweet juicy flesh, and a large rough seed in its centre –see picture at FRUIT **2** [U] a light-yellowish pink colour **3** [S] *infml* a person or thing that is greatly admired: *a peach of a hat* (=a very fine or attractive one)

Peach Mel·ba /ˌpiːtʃ ˈmelbə/ *n* [C;U] half a peach served with ice cream and RASPBERRY juice

pea·cock /ˈpiːkɒk‖-kɑːk/ *n* **1** a large bird (a male peafowl), which has long tail feathers that can be spread out showing beautiful colours and patterns **2** also **peacock but·ter·fly** /ˌ·· ˈ···/– a BUTTERFLY with large wings which have patterns on them like those on the tail of a peacock **3** *not tech* a peahen

Peacock, Thomas Love (1785–1866) an English SATIRICAL writer and poet whose works include *Headlong Hall* and *Nightmare Abbey*

peacock blue /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having a bright shiny blue colour

pea·fowl /ˈpiːfaʊl/ *n* **peafowl** *or* **peafowls** a peacock or peahen

pea green /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having a light bright green colour like that of PEAS

pea·hen /ˈpiːhen/ *n* a large brownish bird, the female peafowl

peak[1] /piːk/ *n* **1 a** a sharply pointed mountain top: *The*

(mountain) peaks are covered with snow all the year. **b** a whole mountain with a pointed top: *Here the high peaks begin to rise from the plain.* —compare SUMMIT and see picture at MOUNTAIN **2** a part that curves to a point above a surface: *The wind blew the waves into great peaks.* **3** the highest point, level, etc., esp. of a varying amount, rate, etc.: *Sales have reached a new peak.* | *Demand for coal is at its peak in January and February.* —compare OFF-PEAK **4** the flat curved part of a cap which sticks out in front above the eyes —see picture at HAT

peak[2] *v* [I] to reach a PEAK[1] (3): *Sales have now peaked, and we expect them to decrease soon.*

peak[3] *adj* [A] at the point of greatest activity, value, power, etc.: *The factory is running at peak productivity.* | *Athletes have to train continuously to stay in peak condition.*

Peak Dis·trict /ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] a hilly area and national park, mostly in N Derbyshire, N Central England. It is popular for climbing, walking, and POT HOLING.

Peake /piːk/, **Mer·vyn** /ˈmɜːvɪn‖ˈmɜːr-/ (1911–68) an English writer and ILLUSTRATOR born in China. His NOVELS include the strange fantasies (FANTASY) *Titus Groan, Gormenghast*, and *Titus Alone.*

peaked /piːkt/ *adj* having a PEAK[1] (4): *a peaked cap* —see picture at HAT

peak time /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n BrE* **1** a time when a stated activity, value, power, etc. is at its greatest level: *Peak times for electricity consumption are in the early evening.* | *We found that the peak time at this junction is 5.20 p.m.* **2** [U] *BrE*, also **peak viewing hours** *BrE* ‖ **prime time** *AmE*— the time when the number of people watching television is at its greatest. Television companies charge more during this time to put their advertisements on television. In Britain, peak time is between 7.30 and 10.30 at night, and in the US it is between 8 and 11 at night.

pea·ky /ˈpiːki/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* rather pale or ill: *I'm feeling a bit peaky this morning.* | *She's been looking rather peaky lately.*

peal[1] /piːl/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a loud long sound or number of sounds one after the other: *a peal of thunder* | *peals of laughter* **2** the sound of the loud ringing of bells **3** *tech* **a** a musical pattern made by the ringing of a number of bells one after another **b** a set of bells on which these patterns can be played

peal[2] *v* [I (OUT);T] to (cause to) ring out or sound loudly: *The bells pealed out.*

pea·nut /ˈpiːnʌt/ also **groundnut** *BrE tech*, **monkey-nut** *old-fash*— *n* a nut which grows in a shell under the ground, and can be eaten —see also PEANUTS, and see picture at NUT

peanut but·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··‖ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a soft substance made of crushed peanuts, usu. eaten on bread

peanut gal·le·ry /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n AmE humor* the rows of seats at the back of a theatre or cinema, usu. on a raised platform, where the seats are cheap

pea·nuts /ˈpiːnʌts/ *n* [U] *infml* a sum of money so small that it is not worth considering: *He pays his workers peanuts.*

Peanuts a COMIC STRIP by the American CARTOONIST (=person who makes humorous drawings) Charles Schultz featuring a group of children. The main character is Charlie Brown, and other characters include Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, Pigpen, Sally, Peppermint Patty, and Schroeder.

pear /peəʳ/ *n* (a tree that produces) a sweet juicy fruit, which has a round base and usu. becomes narrower towards the stem —see picture at FRUIT

pearl /pɜːl‖pɜːrl/ *n* **1** [C] a hard round small silvery-white mass formed inside the shell of OYSTERS and similar creatures, very valuable as a jewel: *a pearl necklace* | *a string of pearls* | *(fig.) pearls of wisdom* **2** [U] the colour of this; silvery-white **3** [U] MOTHER-OF-PEARL: *a knife with a pearl handle* **4 do not cast/throw pearls before swine** (=pigs) (a slightly changed saying from the Bible) do not give something valuable to someone who cannot understand its value: *The children were too young to understand the Shakespeare read to them; it was like casting pearls before swine.* | *Trying to explain to the fur traders why these animals should be preserved was like casting pearls before swine.*

pearl bar·ley /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a variety of BARLEY with small round grains

pearl div·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person who swims under water in the sea, looking for shells containing pearls

Pearl Har·bor /ˌ· ˈ··/ an American naval base in Hawaii which was the scene of a surprise Japanese air attack in 1941 which brought the US into the Second World War

pearl·y /ˈpɜːli‖ˈpɜːrli/ *adj* like or decorated with pearls: *pearly teeth* | *a pale pearly grey* —**-iness** *n* [U]

pearly gates /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+P] *often humor* the gates of heaven

pearly king /ˌ·· ˈ·/ **pearly queen** *fem*— *n* a person chosen from certain London families who has the right, on certain special occasions, to wear clothes richly decorated with patterns of **pearl buttons** (buttons made of, or looking like MOTHER-OF-PEARL)

pear·main /ˈpeəmeɪn‖ˈpeər-/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a type of apple

Pears /peəz‖peərz/ *n tdmk* a type of soap made by A & F Pears Ltd; Pears is generally considered to be good for the skin

►CULTURAL NOTE Pears is known in the UK for holding a competition every year to find the little girl with the prettiest face and the softest skin◄

Pears /pɪəz‖pɪərz/, **Sir Peter** (1910–86) an English singer; a TENOR who started the ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL with Benjamin Britten in 1948

Pears Cy·clo·pae·di·a /ˌpeəz saɪkləˈpiːdiə‖ˌpeərz-/ a British book produced every year, containing information on politics, music, science, famous people, etc. in Britain and the US

pear-shaped /ˈ· ·/ *adj* shaped like a pear; wider at the bottom and narrower at the top. It is often said that this is the typical shape of a British woman.

peas·ant /ˈpezənt/ *n* **1** (now used esp. in connection with developing countries or former times) a person who works on the land, esp. one who owns and lives on a small piece of land **2** *infml derog* a person without education or good manners: *Don't be such a peasant!*

peas·ant·ry /ˈpezəntri/ *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] all the PEASANTS (1) of a particular country

Peasants' Re·volt /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] a mostly unsuccessful movement of English poor people (PEASANTS) in 1381 against unfair social and economic conditions

pease pud·ding /ˌpiːz ˈpʊdɪŋ/ *n* [U] *BrE* a dish made of dried PEAS, boiled to a soft yellow mass

pea·shoot·er /ˈpiːˌʃuːtəʳ/ *n* a small tube used by children for blowing small objects, esp. dried PEAS, at people or things

pea soup·er /ˌpiː ˈsuːpəʳ/ *n infml old-fash* a thick heavy yellow FOG, often thought to be typical of London in the 19th and early 20th century

peat /piːt/ *BrE* ‖ *usu.* **peat moss** /ˌ· ˈ·/ *AmE*— *n* **1** [U] partly decayed vegetable matter which takes the place of ordinary soil in certain areas (**peat bogs**), and is used for burning instead of coal or for making plants grow well **2** [C] a piece of this cut out to be used for making fires —**peaty** *adj*

Peat Mar·wick Mc·Lin·tock /ˌpiːt ˌmɑːwɪk məˈklɪntək ‖-ˌmɑːr-/ a very large international ACCOUNTANCY firm

peb·ble /ˈpebəl/ *n* **1** a small roundish smooth stone found esp. on the seashore or on a riverbed **2 not the only pebble on the beach** not the only person who has to be considered; only one out of many others who deserve attention —**-bly** *adj* : *a pebbly beach*

peb·ble·dash /ˈpebəldæʃ/ *n* [U] *BrE* CEMENT with lots of small pebbles set in it, used for covering the outside walls of a house

pe·can /pɪˈkæn, ˈpiːkən‖pɪˈkɑːn, pɪˈkæn/ *n* a nut with a long thin reddish shell. **Pecan pie** is a favourite sweet dish in the US.

pec·ca·dil·lo /ˌpekəˈdɪləʊ/ *n* **-loes** *or* **-los** a small unimportant fault or bad action: *His wife seems willing to overlook his little peccadilloes with other women.*

pec·ca·ry /ˈpekəri/ *n* **peccaries** *or* **peccary** a wild hairy piglike animal found esp. in Central and South America

peck[1] /pek/ *v* **1** [I (**at**);T] (of a bird) to strike with the beak: *Don't get too near that bird; it might peck you.* | *The hens were pecking at the corn.* (=picking it up with their beaks) | *It had pecked a hole in the bottom of its cage.* (=made a hole by pecking) | (fig.) *She seemed upset, and*

just pecked at her food. (=ate it in small bites, without interest) **2** [T **(on)**] *infml* to kiss quickly, lightly, and without much feeling: *He pecked her on the cheek.* —see also HENPECKED

peck[2] *n* **1** a stroke or mark made by pecking **2** [**(on)**] *infml* a hurried kiss

peck[3] *n* a measure of amount for dry substances such as fruit and grain —see TABLE 2

Peck, Greg·o·ry /ˈgregəri/ (1916–) an American film actor whose many films include *Moby Dick* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*

peck·er /ˈpekəʳ/ *n* **1** *AmE sl for* PENIS **2 keep one's pecker up** *BrE infml* to remain cheerful even when it is difficult to do so

pecking or·der /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n often humor* the social order of a particular group of people or animals, by means of which the members of the group know who is more important and who is less important than themselves

Peck·in·pah /ˈpekɨnpɑː/, **Sam** /sæm/ (1925–84) a US film director known for the violence of his films which include *The Wild Bunch* and *Straw Dogs*

peck·ish /ˈpekɪʃ/ *adj* [F] *infml, esp. BrE* slightly hungry

pec·tic /ˈpektɪk/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or from pectin

pec·tin /ˈpektɪn/ *n* [U] *tech* a sugar-like chemical substance found in certain fruits, which is important in making JAMS and jellies

pec·to·ral /ˈpektərəl/ *adj tech* of the chest: *pectoral muscles*

pectoral cross /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n tech* a decorative cross worn on the chest by BISHOPS

pe·cu·li·ar /pɪˈkjuːliəʳ/ *adj* **1** strange or unusual, esp. in a troubling or displeasing way: *What a peculiar thing to say! | This meat tastes peculiar; I hope it's all right. | It's rather peculiar that we were not given this information until now.* **2** [F+**to**] belonging only (to a particular person, place, time, etc.); EXCLUSIVE: *This style of cooking is peculiar to the south-west of the country. | a plant species peculiar to the Scilly Islands* **3** *euph* rather mad; ECCENTRIC **4** [F] *infml* rather ill: *I'm feeling a bit peculiar – I think I'll go and lie down.* —see also PECULIARLY

pe·cu·li·ar·i·ty /pɪˌkjuːliˈærɨti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being peculiar **2** [C] something which is PECULIAR (2) to a particular person, place, time, etc.: *The lack of a written constitution is a peculiarity of the British political system.* **3** [C] a strange or unusual habit, quality, etc.

pe·cu·li·ar·ly /pɪˈkjuːliəli‖-ər-/ *adv* **1** especially: *a peculiarly difficult question.* **2** strangely: *He's been behaving most peculiarly.* **3** in a way that is PECULIAR (2) to a particular person, place, time, etc.: *a peculiarly British phenomenon* (=found only in Britain)

pe·cu·ni·a·ry /pɪˈkjuːniəri‖-nieri/ *adj fml or pomp* connected with or consisting of money: *pecuniary gain|motives*

ped·a·gogue /ˈpedəgɒg‖-gɑːg/ *n* **1** *derog* a teacher who is too concerned with rules **2** *old use or humor* a teacher

ped·a·go·gy /ˈpedəgɒdʒi‖-gəʊ-/ *n* [U] *tech* the practice of teaching or the study of teaching methods **—-gic** /ˌpedəˈgɒdʒɪk◂‖-ˈgɑː-, -ˈgəʊ-/, **—-gical** *adj* **—-gically** /kli/ *adv*

ped·al[1] /ˈpedl/ *n* a barlike part of a machine which can be pressed with the foot in order to control the working of the machine or to drive it: *One of the pedals has come off my bicycle. | the accelerator pedal on a car | an organ pedal | a pedal boat* (=worked by pedals) —see picture at BICYCLE

pedal[2] *v* [I;T] **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* **1** to work the pedals of (a machine): *I pedalled like mad but nothing happened.* **2** [(+*obj*)+*adv|prep*] to ride (a bicycle): *He pedalled the bicycle up the hill. | I was just pedalling along.* —see also SOFT-PEDAL

pedal bin /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a container for waste, esp. in a kitchen, which stands on the floor and has a lid which is opened by pressing a pedal with your foot

pedal steel gui·tar /ˌ·· · ·ˈ·/ *n* see STEEL GUITAR

ped·ant /ˈpednt/ *n derog* a person who pays too much attention to small details and unimportant rules **—~ic** /pɪˈdæntɪk/ *adj* : *a pedantic teacher* **—~ically** /kli/ *adv*

ped·ant·ry /ˈpedntri/ *n derog* **1** [U] the quality of being a pedant **2** [C *usu. pl.*] a pedantic expression or action

ped·dle /ˈpedl/ *v* [T] *usu. derog* **1** to try to sell by going from place to place: *She was sent to prison for peddling drugs.* **2** to try to spread (opinions, false information, etc.): *I don't know who's been peddling these nasty rumours about me.*

ped·dler /ˈpedləʳ/ *n* **1** *old-fash* a person who peddles dangerous or illegal drugs **2** *AmE for* PEDLAR

ped·e·rast /ˈpedəræst/ *n AmE* for PAEDERAST

ped·es·tal /ˈpedɨstəl/ *n* **1** the base on which a PILLAR or STATUE stands —see picture at STATUE **2** a position of (too) great respect: *However much you admire her, you shouldn't try and* **put her on a pedestal**. (=treat her as if she is perfect or better than anyone else)

pe·des·tri·an[1] /pɨˈdestriən/ *n* a person travelling on foot, esp. in a street or other place used by cars —compare MOTORIST

pedestrian[2] *adj* **1** *derog* lacking in imagination or any special qualities; dull: *a rather pedestrian student | a pedestrian performance* **2** [A] of or for pedestrians: *a pedestrian precinct* (=an area where motor traffic is not allowed)

pedestrian cross·ing /·ˌ··· ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ also **crosswalk** *AmE*— *n* a special place for pedestrians to cross the road —see also PELICAN CROSSING, ZEBRA CROSSING

pe·di·a·tri·cian /ˌpiːdiəˈtrɪʃən/ *n AmE* for PAEDIATRICIAN

pe·di·at·rics /ˌpiːdiˈætrɪks/ *n* [U] *AmE* for PAEDIATRICS

ped·i·cure /ˈpedɪkjʊəʳ/ *n* [C;U] (a) treatment of the feet and toenails, to make them more comfortable or more beautiful —compare MANICURE[1] **—-curist** *n*

ped·i·gree[1] /ˈpedɨgriː/ *n* [C;U] (an official description of) the set of people or animals from whom a person or animal is descended; ANCESTRY: *Examine its pedigree carefully before you buy such an expensive cat. | a dog of unknown pedigree | a young woman of impeccable pedigree* (=from an ancient family)

pedigree[2] *adj* [A] (of an animal) descended from a long, recorded, and usu. specially chosen family of animals, and therefore of high quality: *a pedigree dog* —compare MONGREL (1), PUREBRED, THOROUGHBRED

Pedigree Chum /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a range of different types of food for dogs, made by Pedigree Petfoods; it is generally considered to be high quality food which is good for dogs

ped·i·ment /ˈpedɨmənt/ *n* a three-sided piece of stone or other material placed above the entrance to a building, found esp. in the buildings of ancient Greece

ped·lar ‖ also **peddler** *AmE* /ˈpedləʳ/ *n* a person who, in the past, went from place to place trying to sell small articles

pe·do·phile /ˈpiːdəfaɪl/ *n AmE* for PAEDOPHILE

pee[1] /piː/ *v* [I] *infml for* URINATE

pee[2] *n infml* **1** [S] an act of urinating (URINATE): *I must go for|have a pee.* **2** [U] URINE

Pee·bles·shire /ˈpiːbəlʃəʳ/ a former COUNTY in S Scotland, now part of the Borders REGION

peek /piːk/ *v* [I **(at)**] *infml* to take a quick look at something, esp. when one should not: *They caught him peeking through the keyhole at what was going on in the room.* —compare PEEP[1], PEER[2] **—peek** *n* [S **(at)**] : *to take|have a peek*

peek·a·boo /ˌpiːkəˈbuː/ also **peepbo**— *interj, n* [U] (a shout used in) a game played to amuse babies, in which you repeatedly hide your face and then bring it back into view, saying "peek-a-boo"

peel[1] /piːl/ *v* **1** [T] to remove the outer covering from (a fruit, vegetable, etc.): *a machine that peels potatoes* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to remove (the outer covering) from something: *She peeled the skin off the banana. | He peeled away the outer layers of the onion. |* (fig.) *They peeled off their clothes and jumped into the water.* **3** [I] **a** to lose an outer covering or surface: *The walls were damp and were peeling.* **b** (of an outer covering or surface) to come off, esp. in small pieces: *Wallpaper was peeling off the damp walls. | My skin always peels when I've been in the sun.* **4 keep one's ˈeyes peeled** *infml* to keep careful watch for anything dangerous or unusual which may happen **—~er** *n*: *a potato peeler*

peel off *phr v* [I] (of an aircraft) to turn and move away from other aircraft in the air

peel[2] *n* [U] the outer covering of certain fruits and vegetables, esp. of those which one usu. peels before eating: *One*

speaks of orange peel and apple peel, but of tomato skin. —compare RIND (1); see also PEELINGS; see RIND (USAGE), and see picture at FRUIT

Peel, Rob·ert /ˈrɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt/ (1788–1850) a British Conservative politician who established the first official British police force and introduced freedoms for Roman Catholics. He was PRIME MINISTER from 1834 to 1835 and 1841 to 1846.

peel·er /ˈpiːlə^{r}/ *n* **1** a special type of knife for peeling fruit or vegetables **2** *BrE old-fash* (*often cap.*) a policeman (from Sir Robert Peel, who began the London police force in 1829)

peel·ings /ˈpiːlɪŋz/ *n* [P] parts peeled off, esp. from potatoes

peep[1] /piːp/ *v* [I] **1** [(**at**)] to look at something quickly and secretly, esp. through a hole or other small opening: *I caught him peeping at my work.* | *peeping through the curtains* **2** [+*adv*/*prep*] to begin slowly to appear; come partly into view: *The flowers are beginning to peep through the soil.* | *strands of hair peeping out from under her hat* —compare PEEK, PEER[2]

peep[2] *n* [S (**at**)] a quick, incomplete, or secret look: *He took a peep at the back of the book to find out the answers to the questions.*

peep[3] *n* **1** [C] a short weak high sound as made by a young bird or a mouse **2** [S] *infml* a sound, esp. something spoken: *I don't want to hear a peep out of you until dinnertime.* (=be quiet!) | *We haven't* **had a peep out of** (=haven't heard from) *them for over a month.* **3** [C] *BrE* also **beep** (used esp. by or to children) the sound of a car's horn

peep[4] *v* [I] to make a PEEP[3] (1)

peep·bo /ˈpiːpbəʊ/ *interj, n* [U] PEEKABOO

peep·er /ˈpiːpə^{r}/ *n* **1** [*usu. pl.*] *infml* an eye: *Keep your peepers open!* (=watch carefully!) **2** *usu. derog* someone who PEEPS[1] (1), esp. a PEEPING TOM

peep·hole /ˈpiːphəʊl/ *n* a small hole, esp. in a door or wall, through which one can peep at something. They are often found in doors for safety reasons so that the person inside can check who is outside before opening the door.

peeping Tom /ˌpiːpɪŋ ˈtɒm‖-ˈtɑːm/ *n derog* a person who secretly looks at others who think they are not being watched, esp. when they are undressing (from the story of Peeping Tom who is said to have been a TAILOR from the city of Coventry in central England, who peeped at Lady Godiva as she rode through the city with no clothes on and was struck blind)

peep show /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** an esp. sexy entertainment (e.g. a film) or object (e.g. a photograph) seen through a small hole usu. fitted with glass to make the image bigger **2** a live show with sexy entertainment

peer[1] /pɪə^{r}/ *n* **1** *fml or tech* a person of the same age, class, position, etc., as oneself: *The opinions of his peers are more important to him than his parents' ideas.* | *Children are very susceptible to peer pressure.* —see also PEERLESS **2** also **peer of the realm**– (in Britain) a member of any of five noble ranks, BARON, VISCOUNT, EARL, MARQUIS, and DUKE, who has the right to sit in the House of Lords – see also LIFE PEER, PEERESS

peer[2] *v* [I+*adv*/*prep*] to look very carefully or hard, esp. as if not able to see clearly: *She peered through the mist, trying to find the right path.* | *He peered at me over the top of his glasses* —compare PEEK, PEEP[1]

peer·age /ˈpɪərɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [(*the*) C] the rank of a PEER[1] (2): *After ten years in the government she was given a peerage*/*was* **raised to the peerage**. **2** [*the*+S+*sing.*/*pl. v*] all the peers, considered as a group **3** [C] a book containing a list of peers and the families from which they are descended

peer·ess /ˈpɪərɪs/ *n* **1** a female PEER[1] (1) **2** the wife of a PEER[1] (1)

peer group /ˈ· ·/ *n* a group of people of the same age, class, background, etc. (as oneself): *Children are very susceptible to* **peer-group pressure**/*pressure from their peer group.*

peer·less /ˈpɪələs‖ˈpɪər-/ *adj fml apprec* without an equal; better than any other: *peerless beauty*

peer pres·sure /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the pressure to be the same as one's peers. This phrase usu. means the pressure on young people to smoke, drink, take drugs, etc., when they feel they must do such things to have friends.

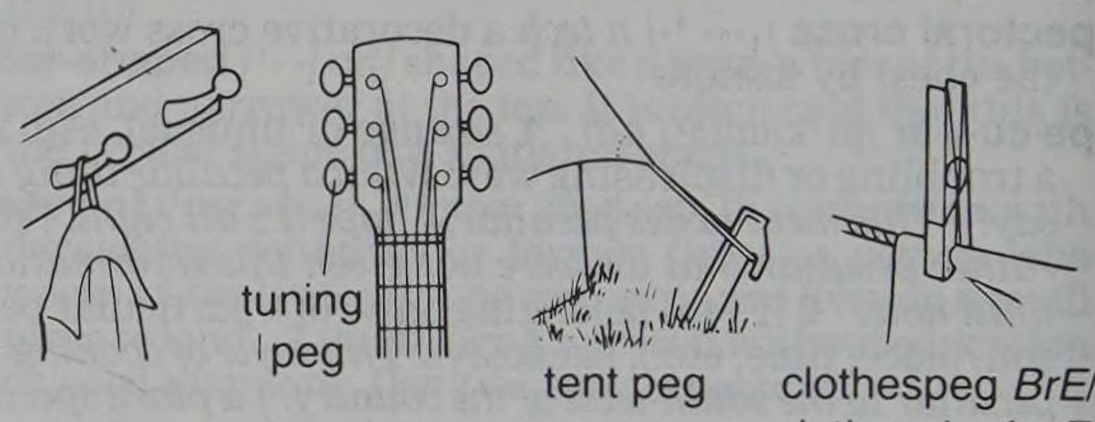
peeve /piːv/ *v* [T *often pass.*] *infml* to make (someone) feel angry and offended: *I was very peeved by his refusal to cooperate.*

peev·ish /ˈpiːvɪʃ/ *adj* bad-tempered; easily annoyed by unimportant things —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pee·wit /ˈpiːwɪt/ *n* a LAPWING

peg[1] /peg/ *n* **1** a short piece of wood, metal, etc., usu. thinner at one end than at the other, used for fastening things, hanging things on, etc: *Hang your coat on the peg in the hall.* | *First hammer the tent pegs into the ground, then tie the ropes onto them.* | (fig.) *He'll use anything as a peg to hang an argument on.* **2** also **clothes peg** *BrE* ‖ **clothespin** *AmE*– a small piece of plastic or wood with two points, or two rounded ends held together by a spring, used for fixing washed clothes to a line to dry **3** also **tuning peg**– a wooden screw used to tighten or loosen the strings of certain musical instruments **4** *BrE, becoming rare* a small amount of a strong alcoholic drink, esp. WHISKY or BRANDY **5 off the peg**‖**off the rack** (of clothes) not specially made to fit a particular person's measurements: *He buys his suits off the peg.* | *Off-the-peg clothes are usually cheaper.* | (fig.) *off-the-peg computer software* (=not specially written for a particular user) – compare BESPOKE, **off the shelf** (SHELF) **6 take someone ˈdown a peg (or two)** *infml* to show someone that they are not as important as they thought they were – see also **square peg in a round hole** (SQUARE[2])

pegs



peg[2] *v* **-gg-** [T] **1** to fasten with a peg **2** [(OUT, UP)] *BrE* to fasten (wet clothes) to a rope with a peg for drying **3** to fix or hold (prices, wages, etc.) at a certain level

peg away at sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *infml* to work hard and steadily at

peg out *phr v* **1** [T] (**peg** sthg. ↔ **out**) to mark (a piece of ground) with wooden sticks **2** [I] *infml, esp. BrE* to die

Peg·a·sus /ˈpegəsəs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a horse with wings

peg·board /ˈpegbɔːd‖-bɔːrd/ *n* **1** a small RECTANGULAR board with holes in it used to record a player's points in certain esp. card games **2** [U] material (e.g. FIBREBOARD) with holes in it into which one puts PEGS or hooks for hanging articles on

peg leg /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* an artificial leg, esp. a wooden one

Peirce /pɪəs‖pɪərs/, **Charles San·ders** /tʃɑːlz ˈsɑːndəz‖tʃɑːrlz ˈsændərz/ (1838–1914) an American thinker (PHILOSOPHER), who said that the meaning of an idea depended on the results that idea would have. His most important writings were put together after his death in a book called *Chance, Love and Logic.*

pe·jo·ra·tive /pɪˈdʒɒrətɪv‖-ˈdʒɔː-, -ˈdʒɑː-/ *adj fml* (of a word, phrase, etc.) expressing disapproval or suggesting that someone or something is of little value or importance: *Many women now consider "housewife" a pejorative expression, because it patronizes them.* —~**ly** *adv*

pe·kin·ese, pekingese /ˌpiːkɪˈniːz◂/ also **peke** /piːk/*infml*– *n* **pekinese** *or* **pekineses** (*often cap.*) a very small dog with a short flat nose and long silky hair —see picture at DOG

Pe·king /ˌpiːˈkɪŋ◂/ another name for Beijing, now regarded as old-fashioned

Peking duck /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a special Chinese dish of ROAST duck served with SPRING ONIONS and a special SAUCE (=liquid with a particular taste)

pe·koe /ˈpiːkəʊ/ *n* [U] a kind of tea made from the BUD (=youngest part) of the tea plant. It is esp. popular in the US.

pe·lag·ic /pəˈlædʒɪk/ *adj fml or tech* connected with or living in the deep sea far from the shore

Pel·é /ˈpeleɪ‖peˈleɪ/ (1940–) a Brazilian footballer considered by many to be the greatest footballer ever. He played for Brazil in three World Cups and then went to the US, where he helped to make football more popular.

pel·i·can /ˈpelɪkən/ *n* **pelicans** *or* **pelican** a large water bird which catches fish for food and stores them in a deep baglike part under its beak —see picture at WATER BIRD

pelican cross·ing /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* (in Britain) a PEDESTRIAN CROSSING where someone wishing to cross the road can stop the traffic by working special TRAFFIC LIGHTS. Pelican crossings are known by the figures of a standing red man which appears on the lights when it is not safe to cross and a walking green man which appears when it is safe. —compare ZEBRA CROSSING

pel·lag·ra /pəˈlægrə/ *n* [U] a disease which is caused by a lack of a type of B VITAMIN, and produces great tiredness and disorder of the skin and CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

pel·let /ˈpelət/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a small ball of any soft substance made (as if) by rolling between the fingers: *hens fed on pellets of food* **2** a small ball of metal made to be fired from a gun

pell-mell /ˌpel ˈmel◂/ *adv old-fash* in a disorderly hurry: *children running pell-mell down the street*

pel·lu·cid /pəˈluːsəd/ *adj lit* very clear; TRANSPARENT: *a pellucid stream* — ~**ly** *adv*

pel·met /ˈpelmət/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **valance** *esp. AmE*— *n* a narrow piece of wood or cloth above a window that hides the rod on which curtains hang

Pel·o·pon·nese /ˌpeləpəˈniːs◂/ a mountainous area forming S Greece

Pel·o·pon·ne·sian Wars /ˌpeləpəniːʃən ˈwɔːz‖-ˈwɔːrz/ [*the*+P] wars between two powers, Sparta and Athens, which are today in Greece, between 431 and 404 BC. Their history was recorded by Thucydides.

pe·lot·a /pəˈlɒtə‖-ˈləʊ-/ *n* [U] a ball game played esp. in Spain, America, and the Philippines, in which a long basket tied to the wrist is used to hit the ball against a wall

pelt[1] /pelt/ *v* **1** [T (**with**)] to attack (someone) by throwing a lot of things at them, quickly and repeatedly: *They pelted the speaker with rotten tomatoes.* | (fig.) *The children pelted him with questions about his journey.* **2** [I (DOWN)] (of rain) to fall heavily and continuously: *I'm not going out there – it's really pelting (down)!* | *(esp. BrE) It's pelting with rain.* **3** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to run very fast: *The boys came pelting down the hill.*

pelt[2] *n* **(at) full pelt** (moving, running, etc.) as fast as possible

pelt[3] *n* **1** the skin of a dead animal **a** with the fur or hair still on it **b** with the fur or hair removed and ready to be prepared as leather **2** the fur or hair of a living animal

pel·vic /ˈpelvɪk/ *adj med* of or near the pelvis: *the pelvic bones*

pel·vis /ˈpelvəs/ *n* **-vises** *or* **-ves** /viːz/ the bowl-shaped frame of bones at the base of the SPINE, to which the leg bones are joined —see picture at SKELETON

Pem·broke /ˈpembrʊk‖-brəʊk/ a market town in Dyfed, SW Wales

Pem·broke·shire /ˈpembrʊkʃəʳ ‖ -brəʊk-/ a former COUNTY in SW Wales now forming part of Dyfed

pem·mi·can , pemican /ˈpemɪkən/ *n* [U] dried meat beaten into small pieces and pressed into flat round shapes, used by travellers in distant places where food cannot be found

pen[1] /pen/ *n* **1** an instrument for writing or drawing with ink: *a ballpoint pen* | *a fountain pen* | *a felt-tip pen* **2 the pen is mightier than the sword** *quote* words and books can have a stronger influence on events than the use of force (from a poem by Edward Bulwer-Lytton) **3 put/set pen to paper** to start to write

pen[2] *v* **-nn-** [T (**to**)] *pomp* to write with a pen

pen[3] *n* (*often in comb.*) a small piece of land enclosed by a fence, used esp. for keeping animals in: *a sheep pen* — see also PLAYPEN

pen[4] *v* **-nn-** [T (UP, **in,** IN)] **1** to shut (animals) in a pen **2** to shut (people) in a small space

pen[5] *n AmE sl* a prison (short for PENITENTIARY)

pe·nal /ˈpiːnl/ *adj* **1** [A] of or for legal punishment: *the government's penal policy* (=how it runs prisons, punishes criminals, etc.) | *a* **penal colony/settlement** (=place where prisoners are kept) *on an island* | *He was sentenced to 12 years'* **penal servitude.** (=imprisonment with hard physical work) **2** [A] punishable by law: *a penal offence* **3** very severe; severely unpleasant: *penal rates of taxation* — ~**ly** *adv*

penal code /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a system of laws and statements of the punishments for breaking them

pe·nal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpiːnəl-aɪz‖ˈpiː-, ˈpe-/ *v* [T (**for**)] **1** to put (someone) in a very unfavourable or unfair position: *The new tax laws penalize people who earn less than £7000 a year.* **2** (in sports) to punish (a team or player) by giving an advantage to the other team, esp. by giving the other team a PENALTY (3b): *England were penalized for wasting time.* —**-ization** /ˌpiːnəl-aɪˈzeɪʃən‖ˌpiːnəl-ə-, ˌpe-/ *n* [U]

penal sys·tem /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a system of legal punishment. In Britain this includes FINES (=a payment of money), PROBATION (=going free under certain conditions), and imprisonment, but does not include the DEATH PENALTY.

pen·al·ty /ˈpenlti/ *n* **1** [(**for**)] a punishment for breaking a law, rule, or legal agreement: *She has* **paid** (=suffered) **the penalty** *for her crimes with five years in prison.* | *The law imposes tough penalties on advertisers who do not tell the truth.* | *Some politicians would like to restore the* **death penalty** *for people convicted of terrorism.* | *The maximum penalty for murder is life imprisonment.* | *Fishing in this river is forbidden – penalty £5.* **2** [(**of**)] suffering or loss that is the result of one's unwise action or of one's condition or situation: *One of the penalties of fame is that people point at you in the street.* **3** (in sports) **a** a disadvantage given to a player or team for breaking a rule: *If you pick up the ball with your hand in golf, you suffer a penalty.* **b** an advantage given to a team because the other team have broken a rule: *Liverpool were given/awarded a penalty (kick) when one of their opponents handled the ball.* **c** also **penalty goal** /ˈ··· ·/— (in football) a GOAL gained by this means

penalty ar·e·a /ˈ··· ˌ···/ also **penalty box** *infml*— *n* (in football) a space in front of the GOAL where the breaking of a rule means that the opposing team gets a PENALTY (3b)

penalty box /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* **1** (in ICE HOCKEY) a box in which a player must sit for several minutes if he has broken the rules while playing: *The referee sent him to the penalty box for two minutes for high sticking (holding his stick in a way that is dangerous to other players).* **2** (in football) the penalty area

penalty clause /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* part of a contract which places penalties on the person(s) doing the work if it is not completed on time

penalty goal /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a GOAL scored by a penalty kick in RUGBY

penalty kick /ˈ··· ˌ·/ also **penalty**— *n* **1** (in football) a free kick at the GOAL given to a team because the other team have broken a rule in the penalty area. The GOAL is defended only by the GOALKEEPER. **2** (in RUGBY) a FREE KICK

penalty points /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *BrE* ‖ **points** *AmE*— *n* [*usu. pl.*] points given as penalties for certain driving offences and which appear on the driver's licence. When the points reach a certain total the driver is forbidden to drive for a set period.

penalty shoot-out /ˌ··· ˈ· ·/ *n* an additional competition played at the end of some football matches to decide who wins, when the match has ended in a draw. Players from each team take penalty kicks, and the team that scores (SCORE (1)) the most wins the match.

pen·ance /ˈpenəns/ *n* [U (**for**)] the action of willingly making oneself suffer, esp. for religious reasons, to show that one is sorry for having done wrong: *do penance for one's sins*

►CULTURAL NOTE In some Christian churches, esp. the Roman Catholic church, penance takes the form of saying prayers and is given by a priest after telling him what one has done wrong and being forgiven for it.◄

pen-and-ink[1] /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a drawing) produced using a pen and (usu. black) ink, rather than brush and paint, and therefore using lines and shading rather than solid colours

pen-and-ink² /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n BrE humor sl* an unpleasant smell, a STINK² (1)

pence /pens/ *BrE* **1** (*often in comb.*) *pl. of* PENNY: *twopence | eleven pence | a few pence* —see PENNY (USAGE), compare CENT **2 -pence** also **p**— having the value of the stated number of pennies: *a 13-pence stamp | a 5p piece* (=coin) **3 not have two pence to rub together** *infml* to be very poor: *He couldn't possibly afford a holiday abroad—he hasn't got two pence to rub together!*

pen·chant /ˈpɒnʃɒn, ˈpentʃənt‖ˈpentʃənt/ *n* [(**for**) *usu. sing.*] *Fr* a liking, esp. for something that is slightly disapproved of by other people: *a penchant for fast cars*

pen·cil¹ /ˈpensəl/ **1** a narrow pointed usu. wooden instrument used for writing or drawing, containing a thin stick of a black or coloured material: *written with a pencil|in pencil | a pencil sketch | to sharpen a blunt pencil* **2** [(**of**)] a narrow beam (of light) beginning from or ending in a small point —see also EYEBROW PENCIL

pencil² *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE*

pencil sby./sthg. **in** *phr v* [T] to include for the present time, e.g. on a list or in an arrangement, with the possibility of being changed later: *I've pencilled you in for the match on Saturday; tell me as soon as you know for certain if you can play.*

pencil push·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a PEN PUSHER

pen·dant , -dent /ˈpendənt/ *n* a hanging piece of jewellery, esp. a long chain worn round the neck with a small decorative object hanging from it

pen·dent /ˈpendənt/ *adj fml or tech* **1** hanging supported from above: *a pendent lamp* **2** hanging over; sticking out beyond a surface: *pendent rocks*

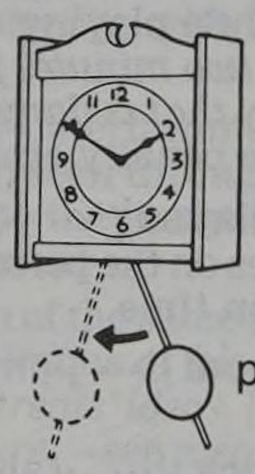
pend·ing¹ /ˈpendɪŋ/ *prep fml* while waiting for; until: *We delayed our decision pending his return from Europe.*

pending² *adj* **1** [F] *fml* not yet decided or settled: *The letter's in the* **pending file/tray** (=a FILE/TRAY where papers are kept which cannot be dealt with yet, e.g. because they are about something which has not yet happened, or because more information is needed) **2** [A] soon to happen; IMPENDING

pen·du·lous /ˈpendjʊləs‖-dʒə-/ *adj fml* hanging down loosely so as to swing freely: *pendulous breasts* —~**ly** *adv*

pen·du·lum /ˈpendjʊləm‖-dʒə-/ *n* **1** a weight that hangs from a fixed point and swings freely **2** a rod with a weight at the bottom, used to control the working of a clock **3** something that tends to change regularly from one position to an opposite one: *Since the last election, the pendulum of public opinion has swung back against the government.*

pendulum



pendulum

Pe·nel·o·pe /pəˈneləpi/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the wife of Odysseus who remained faithful to him during his long absence

pen·e·trate /ˈpenɨtreɪt/ *v* **1** [I (**into, through**);T] to enter, pass, cut, or force a way (into or through): *The knife penetrated his stomach. | The rain had penetrated right through (his clothes) to his skin. | The noise of the explosion penetrated the thickest walls. | They are hoping to penetrate the Japanese market* (=begin selling goods there) *with their latest product.* **2** [T] to see into or through: *My eyes couldn't penetrate the gloom.* | (fig.) *the scientists who first penetrated the mystery of the atom | He had a false beard on, but we soon penetrated his disguise.* (=recognized that it was him) **3** [I] *infml* to come to be understood: *I heard what you said, but it didn't penetrate.* —compare PIERCE; see also IMPENETRABLE —**-trable** /trəbəl/ *adj* —**-trability** /ˌpenɨtrəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

pen·e·trat·ing /ˈpenɨtreɪtɪŋ/ *adj* **1** (of the eye, sight, a question, etc.) sharp and searching: *his penetrating gaze* **2** (of a person, the mind, etc.) able to understand clearly and deeply; ACUTE **3** (of a sound) sharp and loud: *a penetrating whistle* **4** spreading and reaching everywhere: *penetrating dampness* —~**ly** *adv*

pen·e·tra·tion /ˌpenɨˈtreɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the act or process of penetrating: *The company has had a successful first year at home but penetration of the international market has been slow.* **2** *fml apprec* the ability to understand quickly and clearly; INSIGHT **3** *tech* the putting of the male sex organ into the female sex organ when having sex

pen·e·tra·tive /ˈpenɨtrətɪv‖-treɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** able to penetrate easily **2** (of a person, their mind, etc.) keen; INTELLIGENT: *her penetrative observations* —~**ly** *adv*

pen friend /ˈ· ·/ ‖ **pen pal** *esp. AmE*— *n* a person, esp. in a foreign country, with whom one has made friends by writing letters, but whom one has probably never met. Students learning a foreign language are often encouraged to find a pen friend, and this can be done through organizations established for this purpose.

pen·guin /ˈpeŋgwɨn/ *n* an often large black-and-white seabird, esp. of the Antarctic, which cannot fly but uses its wings for swimming —see picture at WATER BIRD

Penguin *tdmk* a PAPERBACK book produced by Penguin Books. Probably the best known name of paperbacks, Penguin were the first good books to appear as paperbacks at a reasonable price.

pen·i·cil·lin /ˌpenɨˈsɪlɨn/ *n* [U] a substance used as a medicine to destroy certain bacteria in people and animals; a powerful ANTIBIOTIC. It was the first antibiotic and although others are now more often used it is the best-known. Some people, esp. older people, use the word to mean any antibiotic.

pe·nin·su·la /pɨˈnɪnsjʊlə‖-sələ/ *n* a piece of land almost completely surrounded by water but joined to a larger mass of land: *Italy is a peninsula.* —**-lar** *adj*

Peninsular War /·ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] a war fought in Spain and Portugal between France and Britain, which began in 1808 when Napoleon I INVADEd Spain, and continued until he was defeated in 1814

pe·nis /ˈpiːnɨs/ *n* the outer sex organ of male animals that is used for passing water from the body and in sexual activity

pen·i·tent¹ /ˈpenɨtənt/ *adj fml* feeling or showing that one is sorry for having done wrong and that one intends not to do so again; REPENTANT —opposite **impenitent** —~**ly** *adv* —**-tence** *n* [U (**for**)]

penitent² *n* a person who is doing or suffering religious PENANCE

pen·i·ten·tial /ˌpenɨˈtenʃəl◂/ *adj* of penitence or PENANCE —~**ly** *adv*

pen·i·ten·tia·ry /ˌpenɨˈtenʃəri/ *n* a prison, esp. in the US: *the state penitentiary*

pen·knife /ˈpen-naɪf/ also **pocketknife**— *n* **-knives** /naɪvz/ a small knife with usu. two blades that fold into the handle, usu. carried in the pocket —compare SWISS ARMY KNIFE

pen·man·ship /ˈpenmənʃɪp/ *n* [U] *fml* the art of writing by hand, or skill in this art: *his flawless penmanship*

Penn /pen/, **William** (1644–1718) an English leader of the Quaker religious movement, who began the Quaker COLONY (2) of Pennsylvania, now part of the US

pen name /ˈ· ·/ *n* a name used by a writer instead of his/her real name —see also PSEUDONYM

pen·nant /ˈpenənt/ *n* **1** a usu. long narrow pointed flag, esp. as used on ships for signalling or by schools, sports teams, etc. **2** (in BASEBALL) the prize given to the best team in both the American and National Leagues; these two teams then go on to play in the World Series: *The Cubs are in the* **pennant race** *for the first time in years (they have a chance to win the pennant).*

Penney, J. C. see J. C. PENNEY

pen·nies /ˈpeniz/ *pl. of* PENNY —see PENNY (USAGE)

pen·ni·less /ˈpenɪləs/ *adj* having no money; very poor: *The debt-collectors took all his money, and he was left completely penniless.*

Pen·nines /ˈpenaɪnz/ [*the*] a mountain range running down the centre from the north to N central England. Because of its position it is also called the BACKBONE of England.

Pennine Way /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a very long path (250 miles) along the Pennines, opened to walkers in 1965

pen·non /ˈpenən/ *n* a long narrow pointed flag, esp. as carried on the end of a LANCE (=spear) by soldiers on horseback

pen·n'orth /ˈpenəθ‖-ərθ/ *BrE* **pen·ny·worth** /ˈpenɪwəθ‖-wərθ/ *AmE, BrE fml*— *n* [(**of**)] *old-fash* as much as can be bought for a penny: *a penn'orth|six penn'orth of sweets*

Penn·syl·va·ni·a /ˌpensəlˈveɪniə◂, -sɪl-/ *written abbrev.* **PA** a state in the NE of the US, known as an important producer of steel and coal. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY) and was a former centre of the AMERICAN REVOLUTION —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Pennsylvania Dutch /ˌ····· ˈ·/ *n, adj* (of or being) a group of people living in Pennsylvania who are descended from German settlers that went there in the 1600s and 1700s to find religious freedom. The Pennsylvania Dutch are Protestants who still wear clothes of that period, do not have cars, etc. They include the AMISH and the MENNONITES.

pen·ny /ˈpeni/ *n* **pennies** *or* **pence** /pens/ *BrE*— **1** [C] **a** also **p** /piː/ — (in Britain since 1971) a unit of money equal to one hundredth (¹/₁₀₀) of a pound: *That'll be 75p, please.* | *a 20p/50p piece* | *It only costs a few pence.* **b** a small BRONZE coin worth one penny: *a stack of pennies* **2** [C] (in Britain before 1971) a unit of money equal to one 12th (¹/₁₂) of a SHILLING: *The book cost two and sixpence.* **3** [C] (in the US and Canada) (a coin worth) a cent **4** [S *usu. in negatives*] a small amount of money: *The journey won't cost you a penny if you come in my car.* **5 a penny for them/for your thoughts** (usu. said to someone who has been silent for a while or appears deep in thought) tell me what you are thinking about **6 be two/ten a penny** *infml* to be very cheap and/or easy to obtain, and therefore of little value: *Brilliant students are ten a penny at that college.* **7 in for a penny, in for a pound** *BrE* if something has been started it should be finished, whatever the cost may be **8 the penny (has) dropped** *BrE infml* the meaning (of something said) was/has been at last understood: *He puzzled over her remark for a moment, and then at last the penny dropped.* **9 -penny** /pəni; *strong* peni/ worth the stated number of pence: *a fourpenny stamp* | *a sixpenny piece* (=coin) —see also HALFPENNY, PRETTY PENNY, **spend a penny** (SPEND)

▷ USAGE In Britain, the US, and Canada, the plural **pennies** is used when speaking or writing of the coins themselves: *He had some coins in his pocket, but no* **pennies.** In Britain, when writing about an amount of money, use **pence** (in the US, **cents**): *It will only cost a few* **pence** or (in prices) **p:** *30* **p** *a packet.* When saying an amount of money use **pence**, or **p** (*infml*): *six* **pence**/*ten* **p** (ˌ· ˈ·). The singular form for an amount of money is *a/one* **penny,** *one* **pence,** *one* **p** (in informal speech) or *1***p** (when writing prices).◁

Penny Black /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* the first British postage stamp, introduced in 1840, and the first in general use with ADHESIVE. It is highly valued by collectors although not the rarest British stamp.

penny dread·ful /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n BrE* a book about exciting adventures or violent crime, originally costing one penny, of a type that was common in the 19th century

penny-far·thing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a bicycle with a very large front wheel and a very small back wheel, used in the late 19th century

penny-half·penny /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n BrE* THREE-HALFPENCE

penny pinch·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n derog* a person who is unwilling to spend or give money —**penny-pinching** *adj, n* [U]

penny whis·tle /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a simple tubelike musical instrument, played by blowing and moving the fingers. Penny whistles are commonly used in Irish music.

pen·ny·worth /ˈpenɪwəθ‖-wərθ/ *n* [**(of)**] *BrE fml or AmE* a PENN'ORTH

pe·nol·o·gy /piːˈnɒlədʒi‖-ˈnɑːl-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of the punishment of criminals, the operation of prisons, etc.

pen pal /ˈ· ·/ *n esp. AmE for* PEN FRIEND

pen push·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ ‖ usu. **pencil pusher** *AmE— n humor or derog* a clerk

pen·sion[1] /ˈpenʃən/ *n* an amount of money paid regularly, esp. by a government or company, to someone who can no longer earn (enough) money by working, esp. when they are old or ill. Money is previously paid regularly, usu. for many years, into the pension system by the person, and the amount they pay decides the size of the pension: *She went to the post office to* **draw** (=collect) **her pension.** | *He retired on a company pension.* | *a war/retirement pension* | *a pension scheme* —see also OLD AGE PENSION

pension[2] *v*

pension sbdy. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to dismiss from work, esp. because of old age or illness, but continue to pay a pension to: *She was pensioned off at 55.* | (fig., *infml*) *It's time your rusty old bike was pensioned off.* (=got rid of)

pen·si·on[3] /ˈpɒnsiɒn‖ˌpɑːnsiˈəʊn/ *n* a house in a non-English-speaking country where one can get a room and meals; BOARDINGHOUSE

pen·sion·a·ble /ˈpenʃənəbəl/ *adj* giving one the right to receive a pension: *She is of pensionable age.* | *a pensionable job*

pension book /ˈ·· ·/ *n* (in Britain) a book of forms which a person signs each week when they go to collect their OLD AGE PENSION

pen·sion·er /ˈpenʃənəʳ/ *n BrE* ‖ *senior citizen AmE*— a person who is receiving a pension esp. an OLD AGE PENSION: *an old age pensioner* —see also CHELSEA PENSIONER, OAP

pension fund /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a FUND (=a sum of money for a special purpose) which is invested (INVEST[1]). The money which is gained from the investment is used to pay pensions to people who have paid money, usu. a fixed amount each month, into the fund.

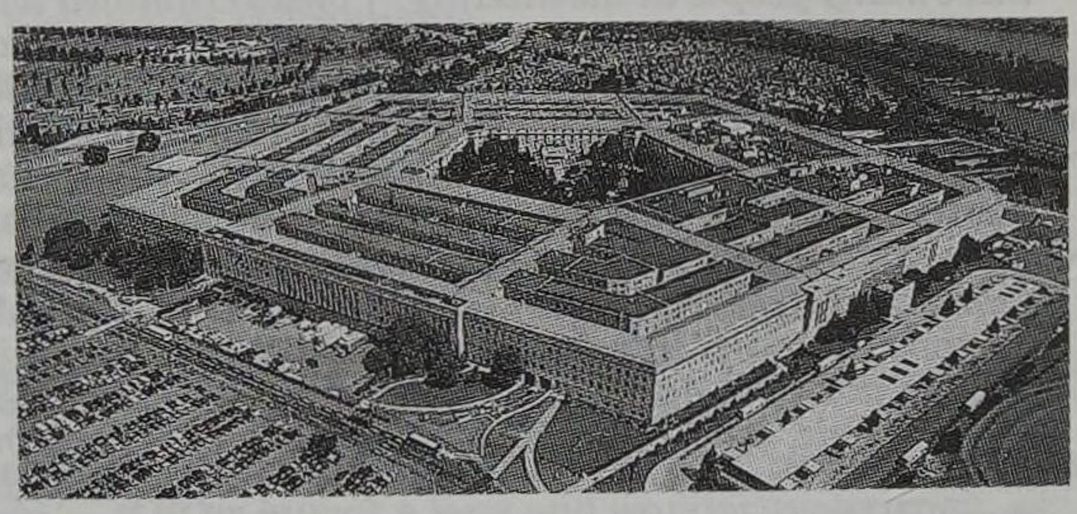
pension plan /ˈ·· ˌ·/ ‖ also **retirement plan** *AmE— n* a system by which a person who will not get a pension from an employer pays money, usu. a fixed amount each month, to an insurance company which INVESTS the money to provide the person with a pension

pension scheme /ˈ·· ˌ·/ ‖ also **retirement plan** *AmE— n* a system in many companies in which both the company and the workers pay money into a pension fund for the workers

pen·sive /ˈpensɪv/ *adj* deeply or sadly thoughtful: *a pensive smile* | *You're looking very pensive — is anything wrong?* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pen·ta·gon /ˈpentəgən‖-gɑːn/ *n* a flat shape with five esp. equal sides and five angles —~**al** /penˈtægənəl/ *adj*

The Pentagon



Pentagon [*the*] the large five-sided building near Washington D.C. which contains the main offices of the US Department of Defense, and from which the armed forces of the US are directed: *The Pentagon is planning a massive air-strike.*

Pentagon Pa·pers /ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*] papers taken from the Pentagon which discussed American involvement in Vietnam and were printed in the *New York Times*. The president and the people who worked for him tried to prevent the papers being printed, but the US Supreme Court said that the newspaper had a right to print them under the First Amendment. The case looked at the government's right to keep important things secret against the public's right to know what its government is doing.

pen·ta·gram /ˈpentəgræm/ *n* a five-pointed star, used as a magic sign

pen·tam·e·ter /penˈtæmɨtəʳ/ *n* a line of poetry with five main beats

Pen·ta·teuch /ˈpentətjuːk‖-tuːk/ [*the*] the first five books of the OLD TESTAMENT

pen·tath·lon /penˈtæθlən/ *n* a sports event in which those taking part have to compete against each other in five different sports: running, swimming, riding, shooting, and FENCING —compare DECATHLON

Pen·tax /ˈpentæks/*tdmk* a camera made by the Japanese company Pentax

Pen·te·cost /ˈpentɪkɒst‖-kɔːst, -kɑːst/ **1** also **Shabuoth, Shavuot**— (in the Jewish religion) a holiday 50 days after Passover, which celebrates Moses receiving the Ten

Commandments from God on Mount Sinai **2** (in the Christian religion) the seventh Sunday after Easter; Whitsunday

Pen·te·cos·tal /ˌpentɪˈkɒstəl◂‖-ˈkɔːs-, -ˈkɑːs-/ *adj* **1** of or suggesting Pentecost **2** concerning any of various Christian groups with particular interest in the gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT e.g. FAITH HEALING and SPEAKING IN TONGUES: *Pentecostal church|service*

Pen·te·cos·ta·list /ˌpentɪˈkɒstəl-ɨst‖-ˈkɔːs-, -ˈkɑːs-/ *n* a member of a Pentecostal (2) group —~**ism** *n* [U]

pent·house /ˈpenthaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ a small house or set of rooms built on top of a tall building, often considered very desirable to live in: *the film star's luxury penthouse | the hotel's penthouse suite*

Penthouse an American magazine for men which has serious articles but is known esp. for its pictures of young women with few clothes on and its articles about sex

Pen·ton·ville /ˈpentənvɪl/ also **Pentonville prison** /ˌ··· ˈ··/— a large prison for men, in N London

pent up /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* shut up within narrow limits; not allowed to be free or freely expressed: *I don't like being pent up in the house all the time. | A good argument allows you to release your pent-up emotions.*

pe·nul·ti·mate /pɪˈnʌltɨmɨt/ *adj* [A] next to the last

pe·num·bra /pɨˈnʌmbrə/ *n tech* a slightly dark area between full shadow or darkness and full light

pe·nu·ri·ous /pɨˈnjʊəriəs/ *adj fml* very poor —~**ly** *adv*

pen·u·ry /ˈpenjʊri/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being very poor; POVERTY: *living in utter penury*

pe·on /ˈpiːən/ *n AmE* **1** a person who works at a boring or physically hard job for low pay: *I worked and saved to go back to college and escape the peon job market.* **2** (in Mexico and South America) a person who works as a kind of slave to pay his debts

pe·o·ny /ˈpiːəni/ *n* a garden plant with large round white, pink, or esp. dark red flowers

peo·ple[1] /ˈpiːpəl/ *n* **1** [P] persons; human beings: *Were there many people at the meeting? | buses crammed with people | Most people seem to like her. | People in the south of England speak in a different way from people in the north. | I like theatre people.* (=people connected with the theatre) **2** [P] persons in general; persons other than oneself: *If you do that, people will start to talk.* (=about your behaviour) | *People enjoy reading about the rich and famous.* **3** [(*the*) P] all the ordinary members of a state; all those persons in a society who do not have special rank or position: *Abraham Lincoln spoke of "government of the people, by the people, for the people". | The Prime Minister claimed he had a mandate from the people. | Like many politicians, he likes to be thought of as a* **man of the (common) people.** **4** [C+*sing.|pl. v*] a race; nation: *The Chinese are a hard-working people. | the peoples of Africa* **5** [P] **a** the persons from whom one is descended and/or to whom one is related: *Her people have lived in this valley for over 200 years.* **b** *old-fash infml* one's close relatives, esp. parents: *One day I'll take you home to meet my people.* **6 of** ˈ**all people: a** especially; more than anyone else: *You of all people ought to have been able to understand what he was saying.* **b** surprisingly, out of all those who might be expected to be present, to take action, etc.: *For her, of all people, to complain about you being late for work!* (=she is often late herself) —see also LITTLE PEOPLE; see FOLK (USAGE), MAN (USAGE), PERSON (USAGE)

people[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] **1** to live in (a place); INHABIT: *a desert peopled only by wandering tribes* **2** [(**with**)] *usu. derog* to fill or supply with people of the stated type: *This office is peopled with petty-minded bureaucrats.*

People[1] a US magazine with many short articles about and pictures of well-known people, esp. people known from television and film

People[2]**, The** a British popular Sunday newspaper

people's re·pub·lic /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* **1** [*cap.*] a name or title taken by some SOCIALIST or COMMUNIST states: *the People's Republic of China* **2** *BrE humor, usu. derog* a place which has a left-wing local council: *the people's republic of Lambeth*

pep[1] /pep/ *n* [U] *infml* keen activity and forcefulness; VIGOUR: *Put a bit more pep into your work!* —see also PEP PILL, PEP TALK

pep[2] *v* **-pp-**

pep sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to make more active or interesting; ENLIVEN: *A holiday is just what you need to pep you up. | The food tasted rather bland, so she added some spices to pep it up a little.*

PEP /ˌpiː iː ˈpiː/ *n BrE* a Personal Equity Plan; a government proposal allowing people to buy relatively small amounts of SHARES in British companies without having to pay certain taxes

pep·per[1] /ˈpepəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] **a** a hot-tasting greyish or pale yellowish powder made from crushed peppercorns, used for making food taste better —see also BLACK PEPPER, WHITE PEPPER **b** a powder like this, esp. CAYENNE PEPPER or PAPRIKA, made from certain other plants **2** [C] also **bell pepper** *AmE* (a plant with) a large round or long narrow red, green, or yellow fruit used esp. as a vegetable, with a special, sometimes hot taste: *I bought some green peppers for the salad.* —see also SWEET PEPPER, and see picture at VEGETABLE

pepper[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**with**)] *infml* **a** to hit repeatedly, esp. with small shots: *I'll pepper his behind with buckshot if he comes on my land again!* **b** to cause to appear repeatedly in: *The report was peppered with mistakes|statistics.* **2** to add or give the taste of pepper to (food)

pepper-and-salt /ˌ·· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] having small spots of black and white mixed together to give a greyish appearance: *a pepper-and-salt beard*

pep·per·corn /ˈpepəkɔːn‖ˈpepərkɔːrn/ *n* the seedlike fruit of a tropical plant, which is dried and crushed to make pepper

peppercorn rent /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a very small amount of money (much less than one would expect) paid as rent

pep·per mill /ˈ·· ·/ also **pepper grind·er** /ˈ·· ˌ··/— *n* a small apparatus worked by hand and used for crushing peppercorns into powder

pep·per·mint /ˈpepəˌmɪnt‖-ər-/ *n* **1** [U] **a** a MINT[3] (1) plant with a special strong taste, used esp. in making sweets and medicine **b** the taste of this plant: *peppermint liqueur|flavouring* **2** [C] also **mint**— a sweet with this taste

pepper pot /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **pepper shak·er** /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *AmE*— *n* a container with small holes in the top, used for shaking pepper onto food —compare SALTCELLAR

pep·per·y /ˈpepəri/ *adj* **1** (of food) like or tasting of pepper **2** (of a person) easily made angry; IRRITABLE

pep pill /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a PILL containing a drug which is taken to make one quicker in thought and action or happier, for a short time; STIMULANT

pep ral·ly /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* (in the US) a meeting of all of the students in a HIGH SCHOOL, before a school sports event, to encourage the team to win, and to encourage the students to support their team and their school. At most pep rallies, CHEER LEADERS lead the school in loud, happy cheers for the team. Often the school's song is sung at the end of the pep rally.

Pep·si /ˈpepsi/ *tdmk* the name of an American COLA drink, one of the two best known colas in the world

pep·sin /ˈpepsɨn/ *n* [U] a liquid in the stomach that changes food into a form that can be used by the body

pep talk /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a usu. short talk intended to encourage the listener(s) esp. to work harder or win: *The manager gave his team a pep talk at half time.*

pep·tic ul·cer /ˌpeptɪk ˈʌlsəʳ/ *n* a sore painful place inside the stomach caused by the action of pepsin

Pep·to-bis·mol /ˌpeptəʊˈbɪzmɒl‖-mɔːl/ *tdmk AmE* an American medicine for the stomach which is a thick, pink, sweet-tasting liquid

Pepys /piːps/**, Sam·u·el** /ˈsæmjʊəl/ (1633–1703) an English writer who was an official in the navy, best known for his DIARY which records full details of social life and conditions at the time

per /pəʳ; *strong* pɜːʳ/ *prep* **1** (esp. of amounts, prices, etc.) for each: *These apples cost 40 pence per pound. | My car does about 12 miles per litre.* (=for each litre of petrol) | *How much beer will they drink* **per head**? (=how much will each person drink) **2** (of time) during each: *How many of these can you do per day|a day?* **3** *infml* according to: *The work has been done* **as per** *your instructions.* **4 as per usual** *infml* (esp. of something that one disapproves of) as usual: *He was late, as per usual.*

—see also PER ANNUM, PER CAPITA, PER CENT

per·ad·ven·ture /ˌperədˈventʃəʳ/ *adv old use* **1** perhaps **2** (after **if** or **lest**) by chance

per·am·bu·late /pəˈræmbjʊleɪt/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] *fml* to walk about, round, or up and down (a place) without hurry —**-lation** /pəˌræmbjʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

per·am·bu·la·tor /pəˈræmbjʊleɪtəʳ/ *n fml for* PRAM

per an·num /pər ˈænəm/ *written abbrev.* **p.a.** *adv esp. tech* for or in each year: *a salary of £11,000 per annum*

per cap·i·ta /pə ˈkæpɪtə‖pər-/ *adj, adv fml or tech* for or by each person: *What is the average per capita income in this country?*

per·ceive /pəˈsiːv‖pər-/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *fml* to (come to) have knowledge of (something) through one of the senses (esp. the sight) or through the mind; become conscious of or understand: *He perceived a subtle change in her manner.* [+(*that*)] *They perceived that they were unwelcome and left.* [+*wh-*] *We were unable to perceive where the problem lay.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *I perceived a small trickle of blood coming from the patient's ear.* —see also PERCEPTIBLE, PERCEPTION

▷ USAGE You **perceive** (=notice, become conscious of) something that exists outside your thoughts: *I* **perceived** *a change in the tone of her voice.* You **conceive** (=form in the mind) a completely new idea: *She* **conceived** *a bold plan of escape.*◁

per cent[1] **, percent** /pəˈsent‖pər-/ *adj, adv* (calculated) in or for each 100: *This restaurant has a 10 percent* (=10%) *service charge.* | (fig.) *I am a hundred per cent* (=totally) *in agreement with you.*

per cent[2] *n* **per cent** one part in or for each 100: *This company can only supply 30 per cent* (=30%) *of what we need.* | *to charge interest at fourteen per cent* (=14%)

per·cen·tage /pəˈsentɪdʒ‖pər-/ *n* **1** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] an amount stated as if it is part of a whole which is 100; PROPORTION: *a high/large/small percentage* | *What percentage of babies die of scarlet fever every year?* | *The numbers are small,* **in percentage terms,** *but significant.* **2** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* a share of profits: *She gets a percentage on every copy they sell.* **3** [U *usu. in negatives*] *infml* advantage; profit: *There's* **no percentage in** *being unadventurous; you've got to think big.*

per·cep·ti·ble /pəˈseptəbəl‖pər-/ *adj fml* that can be perceived; noticeable: *a barely perceptible difference* —opposite **imperceptible** —**-bly** *adv*

per·cep·tion /pəˈsepʃən‖pər-/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** the action of perceiving: *a drug which alters one's perception of visual stimuli* **2** also **perceptiveness** /pəˈseptɪvnəs‖pər-/— the ability to perceive well; keen natural understanding: *a man of great perception*

per·cep·tive /pəˈseptɪv‖pər-/ *adj apprec* showing an unusually good ability to notice and understand: *a perceptive woman* | *perceptive comments* —compare SENSITIVE —**~ly** *adv*

perch[1] /pɜːtʃ‖pɜːrtʃ/ *n* **1** a branch, rod, etc., where a bird rests, often specially provided for the purpose **2** *infml* a high position in which a person or building is placed: *From our perch up there on top of the cliff we can see the whole town.* | (fig.) *I'm glad to see someone has* **knocked him off his perch** *at last.* (=shown that he is not as important, clever, etc., as he thought himself to be)

perch[2] *v* [esp. **on, upon**] **1** [I+*adv/prep*] (of a bird) to come to rest, esp. on a thin, raised object such as a branch: *The birds perched on the telephone wires.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *infml* to (cause to) go into or be in the stated position, esp. unsafely or on something narrow or high: *She perched (herself) on a tall stool.* | *a house perched on the edge of a cliff*

perch[3] *n* **perch** *or* **perches** a popular food fish with prickly FINS that lives in lakes and rivers

per·chance /pəˈtʃɑːns‖pərˈtʃæns/ *adv old use or lit* **1** perhaps **2** (after **if** or **lest**) by chance

per·cip·i·ent /pəˈsɪpiənt‖pər-/ *adj fml* quick to notice and understand; PERCEPTIVE —**-ence** *n* [U]

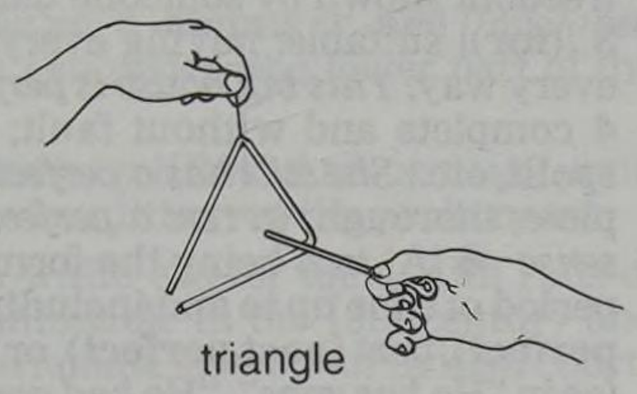
per·co·late /ˈpɜːkəleɪt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to pass slowly through a material that has small holes in it: *The water gradually percolated down through the rock.* | (fig.) *News from the war eventually percolated through to us.* **2** [I;T] also **perk** *infml*— **a** (of coffee) to be made in a special pot by the passing of hot water through crushed coffee beans **b** to make (coffee) by this method —**-lation** /ˌpɜːkəˈleɪʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [C;U]

per·co·la·tor /ˈpɜːkəleɪtəʳ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* a pot in which coffee is percolated

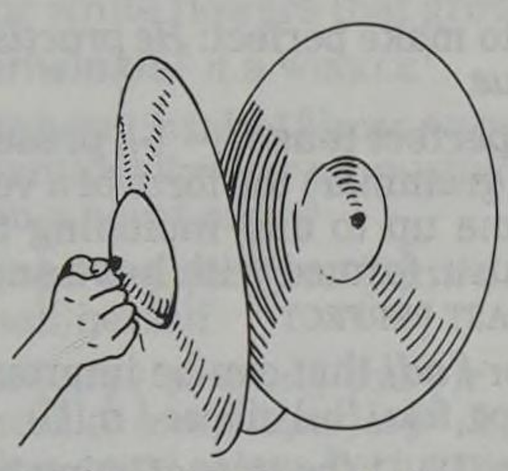
percussion instruments
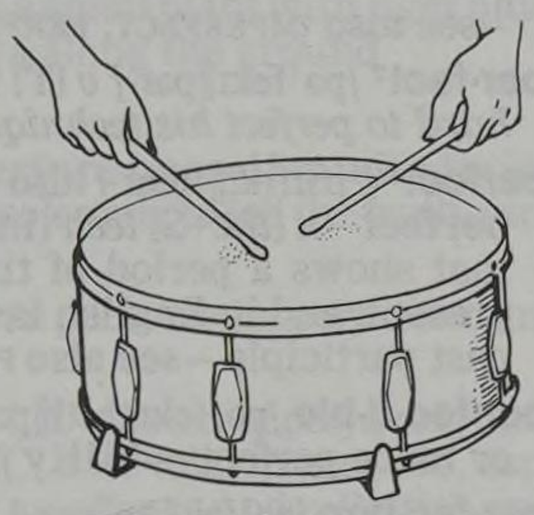


tamborine



triangle



(a pair of) cymbals



drum

per·cus·sion /pəˈkʌʃən‖pər-/ *n* **1** [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] musical instruments that are played by being struck by the hand or by an object such as a stick or hammer, esp. as a division (**percussion section**) of a band: *The drum is a percussion instrument.* | *The percussion is too loud.* **2** [U] *tech* (the effect or sound produced by) the forceful striking together of two hard objects —**-sive** /pəˈkʌsɪv‖pər-/ *adj*

percussion cap /·ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a small container holding an explosive, used formerly in firing guns **2** *fml for* CAP[1] (7)

per·cus·sion·ist /pəˈkʌʃənɪst‖pər-/ *n* a person who plays percussion instruments

per di·em[1] /pə ˈdiːem‖pər-/ *n esp. AmE* money paid by an employer to EMPLOYEES travelling on business, based on what it is thought they need for one day: *What's the per diem rate?*

per diem[2] *adv* every day or by the day: *We are paid per diem.*

per·di·tion /pəˈdɪʃən‖pər-/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** punishment that goes on forever **2** complete destruction

per·e·gri·na·tion /ˌperɪgrɪˈneɪʃən/ also **peregrinations** *pl.*— *n lit or humor* a long and wandering journey, esp. in foreign countries

per·e·grine fal·con /ˌperɪgrɪn ˈfɔːlkən‖-ˈfɔːl-, -ˈfɑːl-/ also **peregrine**— *n* a hunting bird with a black and white spotted front

pe·remp·to·ry /pəˈremptəri/ *adj fml* **1** *derog* (of a person, their manner, etc.) showing an expectation of being obeyed at once and without question; impolitely quick and unfriendly: *in a peremptory tone of voice* **2** (of a command) that must be obeyed —**-rily** *adv*

pe·ren·ni·al[1] /pəˈreniəl/ *adj* **1** lasting forever or for a long time; CONSTANT: *a perennial problem/worry.* **2** [*no comp.*] (of a plant) that lives for more than two years —**~ly** *adv*

perennial[2] *n* a perennial plant: *hardy perennials* | (fig.) *That joke is a* **hardy perennial**! (=keeps being told)

Per·es /ˈperes/, **Shi·mon** /ʃɪˈmɒn‖-ˈməʊn/ (1923–) an Israeli Socialist politician, Prime Minister from 1984 to 1986

per·es·troi·ka /ˌperɪˈstrɔɪkə/ *n* [U] a Russian word meaning rebuilding; the term used to describe the economic, political, and social changes started by Mikhail Gorbachev in the USSR, including reduction of state controls on trading and making politicians more responsible for their actions —compare GLASNOST

Per·ez de Cuel·lar /ˌperes də ˈkweɪjɑːʳ/, **Jav·i·er** /ˈhævieɪ ‖hɑːˈvjeər/ (1920–) a Peruvian DIPLOMAT and SECRETARY-GENERAL to the UN from 1982 to 1991

per·fect[1] /ˈpɜːfɪkt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* **1** of the very best possible kind, degree, or standard: *The weather was absolutely*

perfect. | *a perfect wife* | *a perfect crime* (=one in which the criminal is never discovered) **2** agreeing in every way with an example accepted as correct: *His technique is almost perfect.* | *Yes, Pedro's English is excellent, but I think it's almost too perfect.* (=not showing the natural freedom shown by someone using their first language) **3** [(**for**)] suitable; having everything that is needed in every way: *This big house is perfect for our large family.* **4** complete and without fault; with nothing missing, spoilt, etc.: *She still has a perfect set of teeth.* **5** [A] complete; thorough; UTTER: *a perfect stranger* | *perfect nonsense* **6** [A] *tech* being the form of a verb that shows a period of time up to and including the present (**present perfect**), past (**past perfect**), or future (**future perfect**) (as in "He *has gone*", "He *had gone*", "He *will have gone*") —see also IMPERFECT, PERFECTLY

per·fect² /pə'fekt‖pər-/ *v* [T] to make perfect: *He practised hard to perfect his technique.*

perfect³ /'pɜːfɪkt‖'pɜːr-/ also **perfect tense** /ˌ·· '·/, **present perfect**— *n* [*the*+S] *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows a period of time up to and including the present, and in English is usu. formed with **have** and a past participle —see also PAST PERFECT

per·fec·ti·ble /pə'fektəbəl‖pər-/ *adj* that can be improved or made perfect —**-bility** /pəˌfektə'bɪlәti‖pər-/ *n* [U]

per·fec·tion /pə'fekʃən‖pər-/ *n* [U] **1** the state of being perfect: *The meat was cooked* **to perfection.** (=perfectly) **2** [(**of**)] the process of making something perfect: *He worked hard at the perfection of his technique.* (=worked hard to make it perfect) **3** the perfect example: *His performance was sheer perfection.* (=could not have been better)

per·fec·tion·ist /pə'fekʃənəst‖pər-/ *n sometimes derog* someone who is not satisfied with anything that is not completely perfect: *It takes him hours to cook a simple meal because he's such a perfectionist.* —**perfectionist** *adj* —**-ism** *n* [U]

per·fect·ly /'pɜːfɪktli‖'pɜːr-/ *adv* **1** in a perfect way: *She speaks French perfectly.* | *The colours match perfectly.* **2** very; completely (esp. in expressions of annoyance or disapproval): *What a perfectly ridiculous thing to say!* | *I'm perfectly capable of running my own life, thank you!* (=don't tell me how to behave)

perfect par·ti·ci·ple /ˌ·· '····/ *n* PAST PARTICIPLE

perfect pitch /ˌ·· '·/ *n* [U] the ability to sing or play a note at exactly the right level when it is heard, or named by someone

per·fid·i·ous /pə'fɪdiəs‖pər-/ *adj fml, esp. lit* disloyal; TREACHEROUS —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

per·fi·dy /'pɜːfədi‖'pɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] *fml, esp. lit* (an example of) disloyalty; TREACHERY

per·fo·rate /'pɜːfəreɪt‖'pɜːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to make a hole or holes through (something): *They sent the dog in a perforated box so that it could breathe.* | *Her broken ribs had perforated her lung.* **2** to make a line of small holes in (paper), so that a part may be torn off: *This machine perforates the sheets of stamps.* | *perforated edges*

per·fo·ra·tion /ˌpɜːfə'reɪʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C *often pl.*] a small hole or line of holes made by perforating something: *the perforations in a sheet of stamps* **2** [U] the act of perforating or state of being perforated

per·force /pə'fɔːs‖pər'fɔːrs/ *adv old use or lit* because it is necessary

per·form /pə'fɔːm‖pər'fɔːrm/ *v* **1** [T] to do; carry out (a piece of work, duty, ceremony, etc.), esp. according to a usual or established method: *The surgeon has performed the operation.* | *to perform a miracle* **2** [I (**on, at**);T] to give, act, or show (a play, a part in a play, a piece of music, tricks, etc.), esp. in the presence of the public: *I've never seen "Othello" performed so brilliantly.* | *The magician performed some astonishing tricks.* | *He will be performing on the clarinet|at the piano.* | *a performing bear* **3** [I] **a** (of a machine) to work (in the proper or intended way): *This car performs well on hills.* **b** *infml* (of a person) to carry out a particular activity, esp. well and with great skill: *Our team performed very well in the match yesterday.*

per·form·ance /pə'fɔːməns‖pər'fɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C] the action or an act of performing a (character in a) play, a piece of music, tricks, etc., esp. in the presence of the public: *His performance of|as Othello was very good.* | *The orchestra will give two more performances before leaving Britain.* | *tickets for the evening performance* | *the band's first public performance* **2** [U] the action or manner of carrying out an activity, piece of work, etc.: *Her performance in the exams was rather disappointing.* | *(fml) the performance of one's official duties* **3** [U] the ability of a person or machine to do something well: *The car's performance on corners needs to be improved.* **4** [S] *infml, esp. BrE* **a** something that needs a lot of work, effort, or preparation: *I enjoy this dish, but it's too much of a performance to cook it often.* **b** *derog* an example of bad and socially unacceptable behaviour (esp. in the phrase **What a performance!**)

performance art /·'·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] art having some theatre and something to see and/or hear e.g. a SCULPTURE of which the artist forms a part —**performance artist** *n*

performance pay /·'·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] additional payment given by an employer to a worker, where the amount given depends on how successful the worker has been

performance-re·lat·ed /·'·· ·ˌ··/ *adj* (of wages, etc.) depending on how successfully work is done: *The salary is performance-related.* (=the greater the success, the more money will be paid) | *a performance-related amount*

per·form·er /pə'fɔːməʳ‖pər'fɔːr-/ *n* a person who performs, esp. an actor, musician, etc.: *The audience booed some of the performers.* | *He's their star performer.*

performing arts /·ˌ·· '·/ *n* [*the* + P] the arts, e.g. dance, DRAMA, and music, which are usu. performed in front of a group of people listening or watching

per·fume¹ /'pɜːfjuːm‖'pɜːr-/ also **scent** *BrE*— *n* [C;U] **1** a sweet or pleasant smell: *the roses' heady perfume* **2** a sweet-smelling liquid, often made from flowers, for use esp. on a woman's face, wrists, and body

per·fume² /'pɜːfjuːm‖pər'fjuːm/ *v* [T (**with**)] **1** *fml or poet* to fill with a sweet or pleasant smell: *a garden perfumed with flowers* **2** to put a sweet-smelling liquid on: *a perfumed handkerchief*

per·fum·er·y /pə'fjuːməri‖pər-/ *n* [U] (the process of making) sweet-smelling liquids: *a shop's perfumery counter*

per·func·to·ry /pə'fʌŋktəri‖pər-/ *adj fml* **1** (of an action) done hastily and without thought, interest, or care: *a perfunctory kiss|wave|glance* **2** (of a person) acting in this manner —**-rily** *adv* —**-riness** *n* [U]

per·go·la /'pɜːgələ‖'pɜːr-/ *n* an arrangement of posts built for climbing plants to grow over in a garden

per·haps /pə'hæps, præps‖pər-, præps/ *adv* **1** possibly; MAYBE: *Perhaps she's in the other office.* | *This is perhaps his finest novel yet.* | *"Do you think it'll rain?" "Perhaps."* | *"Will he come with us? "Perhaps not."* **2** (used in making polite requests): *Perhaps you would be* (=Would you be) *good enough to explain this for me?*

▷ USAGE 1 **Perhaps** is similar to **maybe,** but **maybe** is more informal. 2 **Perhaps** can be used to make suggestions or requests or to give orders in a polite manner: **Perhaps** *you would like to join us for lunch.* | **Perhaps** *you could bring me the report tomorrow.* | *You'd better go now,* **perhaps.** —see also MAYBE (USAGE)◁

per·i·gee /'perəˌdʒiː/ *n tech* the point where the path of an object through space is closest to the Earth —compare APOGEE (1)

per·i·he·li·on /ˌperə'hiːliən/ *n tech* the point where the path of an object through space is closest to the sun

per·il /'perəl/ *n esp. lit* **1** [U] (great) danger, esp. of being harmed or killed: *a prayer for those in peril on the sea* **2** [C] something that causes danger: *the perils of motor racing* **3 at one's peril** (used when advising someone not to do something) with the near certainty of meeting great danger: *You ignore this warning at your peril.*

per·il·ous /'perələs/ *adj esp. lit* very dangerous; risky: *a perilous journey across the mountains* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pe·rim·e·ter /pə'rɪmətəʳ/ *n* **1** the border round any enclosed flat space or special area of ground, esp. a camp or airfield: *The perimeter of the airfield is protected by guard-dogs.* | *a perimeter fence* **2** the length of this border: *What is the perimeter of this circle|square?* —compare CIRCUMFERENCE

pe·ri·na·tal /ˌperə'neɪtl◂/ *adj med* (happening) at about the time of birth: *a high rate of perinatal mortality*

pe·ri·od /'pɪəriəd/ *n* **1** a stretch of time with a beginning

and an end, but not always of measured length: *There were long periods when we had no news of him.* | *Tomorrow's weather will be dry with sunny periods.* | *a period of international tension* | *She was taken on for a three-month trial period before being accepted as a permanent member of staff.* **2** a particular stretch of time during the development of a person, a civilization, the Earth, an illness, etc.: *His teenage son is going through a difficult period at the moment.* | *"Which period (of history) are you studying?" "The Romans."* | *They put on a play about the French Revolution, with all the actors wearing period costume.* (=the clothes of that period) —see picture at COSTUME **3** a division of a school day; lesson: *three periods of chemistry a week* | *a double period* **4** also **menstrual period** *fml*— a monthly flow of blood from the body of a woman: *a heavy period* | *period pains* **5** *esp. AmE* **a** FULL STOP —see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK **b** (used at the end of a sentence to express completeness, or firmness of decision): *I'm not going, period!*

pe·ri·od·ic /ˌpɪəriˈɒdɪk◂‖-ˈɑː-/ also **periodical**— *adj* happening repeatedly, usu. at regular times: *periodic bouts of fever|fits of coughing* —compare SPASMODIC — **~ally** /kli/ *adv* : *She looked in on the baby periodically to check that it was all right.*

pe·ri·od·i·cal /ˌpɪəriˈɒdɪkəl‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* a magazine, esp. one of a serious kind, that comes out at regular times, such as every month

periodic ta·ble /ˌ···· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*+S] a list of simple chemical substances (ELEMENTS) arranged according to their atomic weights

period piece /ˈ··· ·/ *n* **1** a fine example of a piece of furniture, work of art, etc., of a certain period in history **2** *infml, esp. humor* something very old-fashioned

per·i·pa·tet·ic /ˌperɨpəˈtetɪk◂/ *adj fml* travelling about; going from place to place, esp. to work: *a peripatetic music teacher who works at several schools* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

pe·riph·e·ral[1] /pəˈrɪfərəl/ *adj rather fml* **1** [(**to**)] of slight importance by comparison; not central or closely related: *matters of peripheral interest* | *peripheral to the main argument* **2** of or in a periphery: *peripheral areas* | *peripheral nerves* (=outside the CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM) —compare OUTSKIRTS —**-rally** *adv*

peripheral[2] *n* a piece of equipment, such as a VDU or printer, which is connected to a computer to help in using the computer —compare ADD-ON

pe·riph·e·ry /pəˈrɪfəri/ *n* **1** [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] a line or area that surrounds or encloses something; outside edge: *a factory built on the periphery of the town* | (fig.) *people on the periphery of our movement who have less influence than they would like to think* —compare OUTSKIRTS **2** *med* the places outside the brain and the SPINAL CORD where the nerves end, e.g. in the fingers or toes

pe·riph·ra·sis /pəˈrɪfrəsɨs/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ [C;U] **1** *fml* (an example of) the use of long words or phrases, or of unclear expressions, when short simple ones are all that is needed **2** *tech* (in grammar) (an example of) the use of AUXILIARY words instead of inflected (INFLECT) forms

per·i·phras·tic /ˌperɨˈfræstɪk◂/ *adj fml or tech* using or expressed in periphrasis — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

per·i·scope /ˈperɨskəʊp/ *n* a long tube with mirrors fitted in it so that people who are lower down, esp. in SUBMARINES, can see what is above them

per·ish /ˈperɪʃ/ *v* **1** [I] (esp. in writing or in newspapers) to die, esp. in a terrible or sudden way: *Hundreds perish in aircrash disaster!* (=a newspaper HEADLINE) **2** [I;T] *esp. BrE* to (cause to) decay or lose natural qualities: *The chlorine in the swimming pool has perished the rubber in this swimsuit.* **3 Perish the thought!** (said as an answer to an unwelcome suggestion) I hope that this will not happen!

per·ish·a·ble /ˈperɪʃəbəl/ *adj* (esp. of food) likely to decay quickly if not kept in proper conditions: *perishable goods such as butter, milk, fruit, and fish* —**perishables** *n* [P] : *a cargo of perishables*

per·ish·er /ˈperɪʃəʳ/ *n infml, often humor, BrE* a troublesome person, esp. a child: *Come out of there, you little perisher!*

per·ish·ing /ˈperɪʃɪŋ/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* **1** [F (**with**)] also **perished**— (of a person) feeling very cold: *Let's get indoors — I'm perishing|perished (with cold).* **2** [F] (of weather) very cold: *It's really perishing this morning!* **3** [A] *old-fash* annoying; DAMN[3]: *Tell those perishing kids to shut up!* — **~ly** *adv* : *perishingly cold*

per·i·style /ˈperɨstaɪl/ *n* **1** a row of PILLARS round an open space next to a building, a temple, etc. **2** the space surrounded by a row of pillars

per·i·to·ne·um /ˌperɨtəˈniːəm/ *n* **-neums** *or* **-nea** /ˈniːə/ *med* the inside wall of the ABDOMEN (=the lower part of the body)

per·i·to·ni·tis /ˌperɨtəˈnaɪtɨs/ *n* [U] *med* an INFLAMMATION (=a poisoned and sore condition) of the peritoneum

per·i·wig /ˈperɪwɪg/ *n* a white WIG for men, with rolls of curls at the sides, fashionable in the 18th century and now worn by male and female lawyers in British courts

per·i·win·kle[1] /ˈperɪwɪŋkəl/ *n* a small plant with light blue or white flowers that grows along the ground

periwinkle[2] *n* a WINKLE[1]

per·jure /ˈpɜːdʒəʳ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* **perjure oneself** to tell a lie intentionally after promising solemnly to tell the truth, esp. in a court of law

per·jur·er /ˈpɜːdʒərəʳ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* a person who perjures himself/herself

per·ju·ry /ˈpɜːdʒəri‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the act of perjuring oneself: *to commit perjury* **2** [C] a lie told on purpose, esp. in a court of law. Perjury is an offence under British and American law.

perk[1] /pɜːk‖pɜːrk/ also **perquisite** *fml*— *n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml* money, goods, or an advantage that one gets regularly and legally from one's work in addition to one's pay: *With all the perks, such as free meals and a car, she's really earning over £15,000 a year.* | *"Surely you shouldn't take all that stationery home?" "Oh, it's one of the perks of the job."*

perk[2] *v*

perk up *phr v* [I;T (=**perk** sbdy. ↔ **up**)] *infml* to (cause to) become more cheerful, show interest, etc.: *She perked up when her boyfriend's letter arrived.* | *I need a drink to perk me up.*

perk[3] *v* [I;T] *infml for* PERCOLATE (2)

perk·y /ˈpɜːki‖ˈpɜːrki/ *adj infml apprec* confidently cheerful; full of life and interest: *a perky little chap* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

perm[1] /pɜːm‖pɜːrm/ ‖ also **permanent wave** *fml* ‖ also **permanent** *AmE*— *n* the putting of waves or curls into straight hair by chemical treatment so that they will last for several months

perm[2] *v* [T] *infml* to give a perm to: *I'm having my hair permed today.*

perm[3] *v* [T (**from**)] *BrE infml* (in the POOLS) to pick out and combine a specific number of (the names of football teams) from a larger number, in order to get the best SCORE

per·ma·frost /ˈpɜːməfrɒst‖ˈpɜːrməfrɔːst/ *n* [U] a thickness of soil, esp. below the Earth's surface, that is frozen all the time

per·ma·nence /ˈpɜːmənəns‖ˈpɜːr-/ also **per·ma·nen·cy** /-nənsi/— *n* [U] the state of being permanent —opposite **impermanence**

per·ma·nent[1] /ˈpɜːmənənt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* lasting or intended to last for a long time or for ever: *This car wax gives permanent protection against heavy rain.* | *Is this your permanent address, or are you only staying there for a short time?* | *a permanent job* | *I think he's a permanent fixture in her life now.* (=they will be together for a long time) —compare IMPERMANENT, TEMPORARY — **~ly** *adv* : *permanently incapacitated*

permanent[2] *n AmE for* PERM[1]

Permanent Sec·re·ta·ry /ˌ··· ˈ···· also **Permanent Un·der-Secretary** /ˌ··· ˈ·· ˌ····/— *n* the non-political head (the chief CIVIL SERVANT) of a British government department

permanent wave /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n fml* a PERM[1]

permanent way /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a railway track and the stones and beams on which it is laid

per·man·ga·nate of pot·ash /pəˈmæŋgənɨt‖pərˈmæŋgəneɪt/ also **permanganate of pot·ash** /·ˌ··· · ˈ··/ *n* [U] a dark purple chemical compound used for disinfecting (DISINFECT)

per·me·a·ble /ˈpɜːmiəbəl‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj fml or tech* that can be

permeated, esp. by water —opposite **impermeable** —**bility** /ˌpɜːmiəˈbɪlɨti‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [U]

per·me·ate /ˈpɜːmieɪt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **into, through**;T] to spread or pass through or into every part of (a thing, place, etc.): *Water permeated through the cracks in the wall.* | *The smell of her perfume permeated the room.* | *A feeling of sadness permeates all his music.* —**ation** /ˌpɜːmiˈeɪʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [U]

per·mis·si·ble /pəˈmɪsɨbəl‖pər-/ *adj fml* allowed; that is permitted: *a permissible stretching of the rules* —**bly** *adv*

per·mis·sion /pəˈmɪʃən‖pər-/ *n* [U] an esp. formal act of allowing; written or spoken agreement; CONSENT: *With your permission* (=if you allow me) *I'll leave now.* [+*to-v*] *Did he give you permission to take that?* | *The company has applied to court for permission to renegotiate the contract.* —see also PLANNING PERMISSION; see REFUSE (USAGE)

per·mis·sive /pəˈmɪsɪv‖pər-/ *adj* allowing people a great deal of freedom (perhaps too much freedom), esp. in sexual matters: *My parents were permissive and let me make my own mistakes* | *We live in a permissive age.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

permissive so·ci·e·ty /·ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ [*the*] *often derog* society, such as in Britain and the US in the 1960s and 1970s, in which there is a lot of freedom, esp. in sexual behaviour, and many different kinds of relationships and LIFESTYLES are accepted. Some people connected the permissive society with the use of drugs for pleasure and a lack of moral standards, esp. in relation to sex.

per·mit[1] /pəˈmɪt‖pər-/ *v* **-tt-** *rather fml* **1** [T] to allow, esp. by a formal written or spoken agreement: [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *You are not permitted access to* (=you are not allowed to see or use) *the confidential files.* [+*v-ing*] *The rules of the club do not permit smoking.* [+*obj+to-v*] *Will you permit us to leave now?* | (*fml*) *Permit me to say how pleased I am that...* **2** [T+*obj+adv/prep*] to allow to be or to come: *She won't permit dogs in the house.* **3** [I] to make it possible (for a stated thing to happen): *I'll come after the meeting if time permits.* (=if it finishes early enough) | *The party will be held in the garden,* **weather permitting.** (=if the weather is good enough to allow it) **4** [T *no pass.*] also **permit of** *fml*— to allow as possible; admit: *The facts permit (of) no other explanation.*

per·mit[2] /ˈpɜːmɪt‖ˈpɜːrmɪt, pərˈmɪt/ *n* an official written statement giving one the right to do something: *You can't work here without a (work) permit.* | *a travel permit* | *an import/export permit*

per·mu·ta·tion /ˌpɜːmjʊˈteɪʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* any of the ways in which a number of things can be arranged in order: *The six possible permutations of two letters chosen from ABC are AB, BA, CB, BC, AC, and CA.* | *to try various permutations* —compare COMBINATION (4)

per·mute /pəˈmjuːt‖pər-/ *v* [T] *tech* to rearrange in a different order

per·ni·cious /pəˈnɪʃəs‖pər-/ *adj fml* very harmful, often in a way that is not easily noticeable; having or being an evil influence: *the pernicious effect of these horror videos on young children* | *a pernicious lie* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pernicious a·nae·mi·a /·ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] *med* ANAEMIA that will kill the sick person if it is not treated

per·nick·e·ty /pəˈnɪkɨti‖pər-/ *BrE*‖**persnickety** *AmE*— *adj infml, often derog* **1** worrying (too much) about small or unimportant things; FUSSY **2** detailed and needing a lot of attention; FIDDLY: *a pernickety job*

Per·nod /ˈpɜːnəʊ, ˈpeə-‖peərˈnəʊ, pər-/ *tdmk* a clear alcoholic drink tasting of ANISEED, which turns cloudy when water etc. is added; a product of France —compare OUZO

Pe·rón /peˈrɒn, pə-‖-ˈrəʊn/, **E·va** /ˈeɪvə/ (1919–52) the second wife of Juan Domingo Perón, who had a very large personal and political following. Her life story is known esp. through the show *Evita*.

Perón, Juan Do·min·go /wɑːn dəˈmɪŋgəʊ‖hwɑːn-/ (1895–1974) an army officer who became president of Argentina in 1946. He and his wife **Eva Perón** were very popular but after she died he lost a lot of his popularity and had to leave the country in 1955. He returned and became president again in 1973.

per·o·ra·tion /ˌperəˈreɪʃən/ *n* **1** *tech* the last part of a speech, esp. the part in which the main points are repeated in a shorter form **2** *fml derog* a grand, long, but meaningless speech

Pe·rot /pəˈrəʊ/, **Henry Ross** (1930–) a wealthy American who entered the 1992 presidential election and enjoyed a lot of popular support, even though he was not connected with either of the main political parties. Voters thought he was more honest and direct than other politicians.

per·ox·ide /pəˈrɒksaɪd‖-ˈrɑːk-/ also **hydrogen peroxide** *tech*— *n* [U] a chemical liquid used to take the colour out of dark hair and to kill bacteria

peroxide blonde /·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n usu. derog* a woman who has made her naturally dark hair very light yellow, by using peroxide —compare PLATINUM BLONDE

per·pen·dic·u·lar[1] /ˌpɜːpənˈdɪkjʊlərˌpɜːr-/ *adj tech* **1** exactly upright; not leaning to one side or the other; VERTICAL: *a perpendicular line* | (*humor*) *He'd drunk so much he found it hard to remain perpendicular.* **2** [F+**to**] (of a line or surface) at an angle of 90 degrees to another line or surface **3** (*often cap.*) of the style of 14th and 15th century English buildings, esp. churches, in which there was decoration by the use of straight upright lines —~**ly** *adv*

perpendicular[2] *n* [C;(*the*) U] *tech* a perpendicular line or position

per·pe·trate /ˈpɜːpɨtreɪt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* [T] *fml* to do (something wrong or criminal); be guilty of: *to perpetrate a crime/a fraud* | (fig., *humor*) *It was the managing director who perpetrated that frightful statue in the reception area.* —**trator** *n* —**tration** /ˌpɜːpɨˈtreɪʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [U]

per·pet·u·al /pəˈpetʃuəl‖pər-/ *adj* **1** *often derog* **a** continuing endlessly; uninterrupted: *the perpetual noise of the machines* **b** repeating or being repeated many times: *I'm tired of your perpetual complaints.* **2** lasting for ever or for a long time: *the perpetual snows of the mountaintops* —~**ly** *adv*

perpetual mo·tion ma·chine /·ˌ··· ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* an imaginary machine that could operate on its own power without the use of outside force or FUEL. Natural laws make such a machine impossible.

per·pet·u·ate /pəˈpetʃueɪt‖pər-/ *v* [T] *fml* to make (something) continue to exist for a long time; preserve: *They put up a statue to perpetuate her memory.* (=so that she would always be remembered) | *an education system that perpetuates the divisions of our society* —**ation** /pəˌpetʃuˈeɪʃən‖pər-/ *n* [U]

per·pe·tu·i·ty /ˌpɜːpɨˈtjuːɨti‖ˌpɜːrpɨˈtuː-/ *n* **in perpetuity** *fml* for ever

per·plex /pəˈpleks‖pər-/ *v* [T] *fml* to make (someone) feel confused and worried by being difficult to understand or answer: *a perplexing problem* | *He was perplexed by her contradictory behaviour.* —~**edly** /ˈpleksɨdli, ˈplekstli/ *adv*

per·plex·i·ty /pəˈpleksɨti‖pər-/ *n* [U] *fml* the state of being perplexed

per·qui·site /ˈpɜːkwɨzɪt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n fml for* PERK[1]

Per·ri·er /ˈperieɪ/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a very well known type of MINERAL WATER which is bottled and exported (EXPORT) from Vergeze in France; Perrier is CARBONATED

Per·rin /ˈperɨn/, **Re·gin·ald** /ˈredʒɨnəld/ a character played by the actor Leonard Rossiter in the popular British television SITUATION COMEDY *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. He was a businessman who planned his own disappearance because of the boredom of his life.

per·ry /ˈperi/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* an alcoholic drink made from PEARS

Perry[1]**, Fred** /fred/ (1909–) an English tennis player who won the men's SINGLES title at WIMBLEDON three times and who also produces sports clothes —see also FRED PERRY

Perry[2]**, William** (19 –) an American FOOTBALL player well-known because he is very large. He is sometimes called "the Refrigerator" because it is said that he can drink as many cans of beer as a REFRIGERATOR can hold.

per se /ˌpɜː ˈseɪ‖ˌpɜːr ˈsiː, ˌpɜːr ˈseɪ, ˌpeər ˈseɪ/ *adv Lat* considered alone and not in connection with other things; in, of, or by itself; as such: *It's a very beautiful piece of furniture per se, but it doesn't go with* (=look good with) *the rest of the room.*

per·se·cute /ˈpɜːsɪkjuːt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to treat cruelly and cause to suffer, esp. for religious or political beliefs: *The Romans persecuted the Christians.* **2** to try to harm (someone) by continually annoying them or causing trouble for them; HARASS: *People who think they're always being persecuted may be suffering from a mental illness.* —**cutor** *n* —**cution** /ˌpɜːsɪˈkjuːʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] : *the persecution of the Jews* | *a persecution complex* (=feeling that people are always persecuting you)

Per·se·phone /pɜːˈsefəni‖pɜːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the daughter of Zeus and Demeter who was taken to the UNDERWORLD by Pluto and made queen there. Zeus finally allowed her to return, but only for six months a year, beginning in the spring. She represents death and rebirth, the yearly cycle of summer and winter (Roman name Proserpine).

Per·se·us /ˈpɜːsiəs‖ˈpɜːr-/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the man who killed Medusa, who could turn people to stone by looking at them. Perseus used his shield as a mirror and cut off her head without looking at her directly

per·se·ver·ance /ˌpɜːsᵻˈvɪərəns‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* continual steady effort made to fulfil some aim: *He's slow to learn, but shows great perseverance.*

per·se·vere /ˌpɜːsᵻˈvɪəʳ‖ˌpɜːr-/ *v* [I **(at, in, with)**] *usu. apprec* to continue steadily and with determination in spite of difficulties: *If you persevere (with the work), you'll succeed in the end.* | *a persevering student* —compare PERSIST

Pershing mis·sile /ˌpɜːʃɪŋ ˈmɪsaɪl‖ˌpɜːrʃɪŋ ˈmɪsəl/ *n* a nuclear BALLISTIC MISSILE (=flying bomb) developed by the US and used in W Europe

Per·sia /ˈpɜːʃə, -ʒə‖ˈpɜːrʒə/ the former name of IRAN

Per·sian[1] /ˈpɜːʃən, -ʒən‖ˈpɜːrʒən/ *adj* of the people, language, art, etc. of Persia (now called Iran): *a Persian carpet*

Persian[2] *n* also **Farsi**— [U] the language spoken in Iran

Persian cat /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a kind of cat with long silky hair

Persian Gulf [*the*] GULF

per·si·flage /ˈpɜːsɪflɑːʒ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* light amusing talk, esp. concerned with laughing at the small weaknesses of others

Per·sil /ˈpɜːsᵻl‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a powder or liquid for washing clothes

Persil-white /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj BrE infml* (of clothes) extremely white and clean (from the advertisement for Persil washing powder, which says that "Persil washes whiter")

per·sim·mon /pəˈsɪmən‖pər-/ *n* an orange-coloured soft fruit

per·sist /pəˈsɪst‖pər-/ *v* [I] **1** [**(in, with)**] to continue in a course of action or way of behaving, firmly and perhaps unreasonably, in spite of opposition or warning: *If you persist in causing trouble, the company may be forced to dismiss you.* | *Must you persist in misunderstanding me?* (=you seem to be intentionally trying not to understand me) **2** to continue to exist: *The bad weather will persist all over the country.* | *Despite official denials, the rumours persisted.* —compare PERSEVERE

per·sis·tent /pəˈsɪstənt‖pər-/ *adj often derog* **1** continuing in a course of action or way of behaving, esp. in spite of opposition or warning: *his persistent attempts to annoy me* | *I kept telling him I wasn't interested in his offer, but he was most persistent.* | *a persistent offender* **2** continuing to exist, happen, or appear for a long time, esp. for longer than is usual or desirable: *a persistent cough* | *persistent rumours* —compare INSISTENT — ~**ly** *adv* —**-tence** *n* [U]

per·snick·e·ty /pəˈsnɪkᵻti‖pər-/ *adj AmE for* PERNICKETY

per·son /ˈpɜːsən‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C] (*pl.* **people**) a human being considered as having a character of his or her own, or as being different from all others: *I like her as a person, but not as a secretary.* | *Would you call a week-old baby a person?* | *You're just the person I wanted to see.* | *She's a difficult person to deal with.* | *Our new neighbours seem nice people.* **2** [C] *esp. fml or law* (*pl.* **persons**) someone unknown or not named: *Any person wishing to lodge a complaint should contact the manager in writing.* | *The police have a department dealing with* **missing persons.**| *murder by a person or persons unknown* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] (*pl.* **persons**) *fml* someone's body or outward appearance, sometimes including their clothes: *I think he had a gun concealed* **about his person.** **4** [C;U] (*pl.* **persons**) *tech* (in grammar) any of the three special forms of verbs or PRONOUNS that show the speaker (**first person**), the one who is being spoken to (**second person**), or the one that is being spoken about (**third person**): *The third person singular of the verb "go" is "goes".* | *"I", "me", and "we" are all first person pronouns.* **5 in person** personally; oneself: *I can't attend the meeting in person, but I'm sending someone to speak for me.* **6 in the person of** *fml* namely; he or she is: *The club has a faithful supporter in the person of Jim Brown.* **7 -person** someone who does the stated thing or has the stated job: *These days it is fashionable to say "spokesperson" rather than "spokesman" or "spokeswoman".* | *a chairperson* | *a salesperson* —see also PERSON-TO-PERSON

▷ USAGE 1 The usual plural of **person** is **people:** *Only one* **person***/A lot of* **people** *replied to our advert.* **Persons** is formal, and is often used in official writings, notices, etc.: *He was murdered by a* **person** *or* **persons** *unknown.* 2 Many people, especially women, do not like the use of words such as **chairman** or **spokesman** to refer to both sexes. They also dislike the use of these words to refer to women. They prefer to use words which can refer to both men and women: *She/he is our new* **chairperson.** | *She/he agreed to act as* **spokesperson.**◁

per·so·na /pəˈsəʊnə‖pər-/ *n* (in PSYCHOLOGY) the outward character a person takes on in order to persuade other people that he or she is a particular type of person —see also PERSONA NON GRATA

per·son·a·ble /ˈpɜːsənəbəl‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* attractive in appearance or character: *a personable young man* —**bly** *adv*

per·son·age /ˈpɜːsənɪdʒ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n fml or pomp* **1** a famous or important person **2** a character in a play or book, or in history

per·son·al[1] /ˈpɜːsənəl‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] concerning, belonging to, or for the use of a particular person; private: *the President's personal bodyguard* | *a letter marked "Personal"* | *I'd like to speak to Mr Davis about a personal matter.* | *If you want my personal opinion, I think it's a load of rubbish.* | *On his release the police returned all his* **personal effects.** (=small articles belonging to him) | *It was a simple recipe, but he had added one or two* **personal touches** *to make the meal more interesting.* **2** [*no comp.*] done or made directly by a particular person, not by a representative: *The manager will give you his personal attention, Madam.* | *He made a personal appeal to the kidnappers to return his child.* | *I have a personal stake in his success.* **3** *derog* (making remarks) directed against (the appearance or character of) a particular person; rude: *Don't be so personal!* | *They made some highly personal remarks about the size of his nose.* **4** [A *no comp.*] *fml* of the body or appearance: *Personal hygiene is important for health.* —compare IMPERSONAL; see also PERSONALLY

personal[2] *n AmE* a short personal advertisement placed in a newspaper or magazine by someone who wishes to find a friend or lover —see PERSONAL COLUMN

personal al·low·ance /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ *BrE*‖**exemption** *AmE*— *n BrE* the income below a set limit on which one does not pay INCOME TAX. It is different for e.g. a married or single person.

personal as·sis·tant /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ *n* see PA[1]

personal col·umn /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* a part of a newspaper that gives or asks for messages, information, etc., about particular people. People can also advertise in the personal column to find a person to start a relationship with: *to put an ad in the personal column*

personal com·pu·ter /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ *abbrev.* **PC** *n* a small computer for use by one person at a time in business or in the home, used for WORD PROCESSING, business accounts, or COMPUTER GAMES —see picture of COMPUTER

personal eq·ui·ty plan /ˌ··· ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* see PEP

personal es·tate /ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] *law* PERSONAL PROPERTY

personal hy·giene /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *fml* keeping one's own body clean: *Personal hygiene is important for good health.*

personal i·den·ti·fi·ca·tion num·ber /ˌ··· ····ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* see PIN

per·son·al·i·ties /ˌpɜːsəˈnælᵻtiz‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [P] *BrE* unkind or rude remarks directed against someone's appearance, character, etc.: *Let's keep personalities out of the conversation, shall we!*

per·son·al·i·ty /ˌpɜːsəˈnælɨti‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U] the whole nature or character of a particular person: *He has a strong|dynamic|weak personality.* | *The drug changed her whole personality.* —compare CHARACTER (1) **2** [C;U] (a person with) forceful, lively, and usu. attractive qualities of character: *She has a lot of|She is quite a personality.* **3** [C] a person who is well known to the public or to people connected with some particular activity: *a television personality*

personality cult /·· ˈ··· ·/ *n usu. derog* the officially encouraged practice of giving too great admiration, praise, love, etc., to a particular person, esp. a political leader: *a personality cult surrounding the Prime Minister*

per·son·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpɜːsənəlaɪz‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to make personal, esp. by adding one's address or (the first letters of) one's name: *personalized handkerchiefs|stationery* **2** *often derog* to change so as to be concerned with personal matters or relationships rather than with facts: *Let's not personalize this argument.* —**-ization** /ˌpɜːsənəlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖ˌpɜːrsənələ-/ *n* [U]

per·son·al·ly /ˈpɜːsənəli‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adv* **1** directly and not through someone acting for one: *The director is personally in charge of all the arrangements.* **2** speaking for oneself only; to give one's own opinion: *She said she didn't like it, but personally I thought it was very good.* **3** as a person; with regard to personal qualities: *She may be personally very charming, but will she be a good secretary?* **4** *derog* as directed against oneself in a PERSONAL[1] (3) way: *You mustn't take her criticisms of your plan personally.* **5** privately: *May I speak to you personally about this problem, sir?*

personal or·ga·ni·zer /ˌ··· ˈ····/ *n* a small RING BINDER holding sheets of specially shaped paper for information, addresses, a DIARY, etc. —compare FILOFAX

personal pen·sion plan /ˌ··· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a PENSION PLAN which is a private agreement between a person and an insurance company, rather than with the government or an employer

personal pro·noun /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n tech* (in grammar) a PRONOUN used for the one who is being spoken to, or the one that is being spoken about: *"I", "you", and "they" are personal pronouns.* —see also PERSON (4)

personal prop·er·ty /ˌ··· ˈ···/ also **personal estate**— *n* [U] *law* all the things owned by a person except land and buildings —compare REAL ESTATE (1)

personal ster·e·o /ˌ··· ˈ···/ also **walkman** *tdmk*— *n* a small CASSETTE PLAYER and/or radio which is carried and listened to through small speakers that fit in or over the ears

persona non gra·ta /pəˌsəʊnə nɒn ˈgrɑːtə‖pərˌsəʊnə nɑːn ˈgrætə/ *n* [U] *Lat* a person who is not acceptable or welcome, esp. in someone's house or to a government: *He was declared persona non grata and thrown out of the country.*

per·son·i·fi·ca·tion /pəˌsɒnɨfɨˈkeɪʃən‖pərˌsɑː-/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a person or thing considered as a perfect example of some quality, either good or bad: *the personification of evil* —compare INCARNATION (3) **2** [C;U] (an act of) personifying something that is without life

per·son·i·fy /pəˈsɒnɨfaɪ‖pərˈsɑː-/ *v* [T] **1** to be a (perfect) example of; be the living form of (some quality): *He is evil|patience personified.* **2** to think of or represent (something that is without life) as a human being or as having human qualities: *A ship is often personified as "she".*

per·son·nel /ˌpɜːsəˈnel‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [P] all the people employed by a company, in the armed forces, or working in any organization: *army personnel* | *The company's main problem is the shortage of skilled personnel.* | *She is studying personnel management.* **2** [U+*sing./pl. v*] the department in an organization that deals with (the complaints and difficulties of) these people: *She works in personnel.* | *Personnel has|have lost my tax forms.* | *Speak to the personnel officer about it.*

person-to-person /ˌ··· · ˈ···◂/ *adj esp. AmE* (of a telephone call) made to one person in particular, and not needing to be paid for if they are not there and someone else answers

per·spec·tive /pəˈspektɪv‖pər-/ *n* **1** [U] (the rules governing) the art of drawing solid objects on a flat surface so that they give a natural effect of depth, distance, and solidity: *The picture looks strange because it has no perspective. In those days artists didn't understand perspective.* | *The objects in the background are* **in|out of perspective**. **2** [C;U (**on**)] the way in which a situation or problem is judged, so that (proper) consideration and importance is given to each part: *We must* **get|keep** *the problem* **in perspective;** *it's not really that serious.* | *The company's results need to be looked at* **in perspective|in their proper perspective;** *our profits have fallen but it's been a difficult year for our competitors, too.* | *The new evidence put an entirely different perspective on the case.* | *a historical perspective* **3** [C (**of**)] a view, esp. one stretching far into the distance

per·spex /ˈpɜːspeks‖ˈpɜːr-/ *BrE tdmk* ‖ **plexiglass** *tdmk AmE*— *n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) a strong plastic material that can be seen through and is used instead of glass

per·spi·ca·cious /ˌpɜːspɪˈkeɪʃəs◂‖ˌpɜːr-/ *adj fml* having or showing very clever judgment and understanding: *a perspicacious comment* —~**ly** *adv* —**-city** /ˈkæsɨti/ *n* [U]

per·spi·ra·tion /ˌpɜːspəˈreɪʃən‖ˌpɜːr-/ *n* [U] *euph or tech* SWEAT[2] (1) or the act of sweating (SWEAT[1] (1))

per·spire /pəˈspaɪəʳ‖pər-/ *v* [I] *euph or tech for* SWEAT[1] (1)

per·suade /pəˈsweɪd‖pər-/ *v* [T] **1** [(**into, out of**)] to make (someone) willing to do something by reasoning, arguing, repeatedly asking, etc.: *Despite all my efforts to persuade him, he wouldn't agree.* | *He persuaded her into|out of going* (=to go|not to go) *to the party.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Try to persuade them to come with us.* | (fig.) *I persuaded the piece of wood* (=made it go gradually) *into the little crack.* **2** [(**of**)] *rather fml* to cause to believe or feel certain; CONVINCE: *She was not persuaded of the truth of his statement.* [+*obj*+(*that*)] *He was unable to persuade the police that he had been elsewhere at the time of the crime.* —**-suadable** *adj*

per·sua·sion /pəˈsweɪʒən‖pər-/ *n* **1** [U] the act or skill of persuading: *In spite of my efforts at persuasion, he wouldn't agree.* | *She used all her powers of persuasion on them.* **2** [C] *fml or humor* a particular belief: *people of many different political persuasions* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] *fml or derog* the stated kind or sort: *an artist of the modern persuasion* **4** [S] *fml* a strongly held belief or opinion: [+*that*] *It is my persuasion that such people should not be allowed to enter this country.*

per·sua·sive /pəˈsweɪsɪv‖pər-/ *adj* having the power to influence others into believing or doing what one wishes: *a persuasive talker* | *very persuasive arguments* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pert /pɜːt‖pɜːrt/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a girl or young woman) slightly disrespectful in a rather amusing way; SAUCY: *a pert young miss* **2** neat and stylish in a cheerful way: *She wore a pert little hat.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

per·tain /pəˈteɪn‖pər-/ *v*

pertain to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to have a connection with; concern: *Any inquiries pertaining to the granting of planning permission should be addressed to the Town Hall.*

Perth /pɜːθ‖pɜːrθ/ **1** a city in SW Australia, capital of the state of Western Australia **2** a city in central Scotland on the river Tay

Perth·shire /ˈpɜːθəʳ‖ˈpɜːrθ-/ a former COUNTY in central Scotland, now part of Tayside REGION

per·ti·na·cious /ˌpɜːtɨˈneɪʃəs‖ˌpɜːr-/ *adj fml* holding to an opinion, course of action, etc., in a very determined way; STUBBORN —~**ly** *adv* —**-city** /ˈnæsɨti/ *n* [U]

per·ti·nent /ˈpɜːtɨnənt‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* [(**to**)] *fml* connected directly with something that is being considered; RELEVANT: *She asked several highly pertinent questions.* | *Your remarks are not pertinent to our discussion.* —opposite **irrelevant;** see also IMPERTINENT —~**ly** *adv* —**-nence** *n* [U]

per·turb /pəˈtɜːb‖pərˈtɜːrb/ *v* [T] *fml* to cause to worry greatly; DISTURB: *I am deeply perturbed by the alarming way the situation is developing.* —**-turbation** /ˌpɜːtəˈbeɪʃən‖ˌpɜːrtər-/ *n* [U]

Pe·ru /pəˈruː/ a country in W South America bordering the Pacific Ocean; capital Lima; population 21,792,000 (1989). People connect Peru with the Incas and often think of it as a REMOTE and mysterious place: *darkest Peru*

pe·ruse /pəˈruːz/ *v* [T] **1** *fml* to read through carefully **2** *often humor* to read: *After breakfast he perused the newspapers.* —**-rusal** *n* [C;U]

Pe·ru·vi·an /pə'ruːviən/ *adj, n* (a person who comes or whose parents come) from Peru

per·vade /pə'veɪd‖pər-/ *v* [T] *fml or lit* (of smells and of ideas, feelings, etc.) to spread through every part of: *The smell of cooking pervaded the house.* | *A spirit of hopelessness pervaded the country.*

per·va·sive /pə'veɪsɪv‖pər-/ *adj* tending to pervade; widespread: *the pervasive influence of television* | *pervasive doubts* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

per·verse /pə'vɜːs‖pər'vɜːrs/ *adj* **1** (of a person, behaviour, etc.) purposely continuing to do, believe in, etc. something that one knows to be wrong, unreasonable, or unacceptable: *She gets a perverse satisfaction from making other people embarrassed.* **2** (of a person or event) unreasonably opposed to the wishes of (other) people; awkward and annoying: *We all wanted to go tomorrow, but she had to be perverse and insisted on going today.* —~**ly** *adv* : *Perversely, it started to rain just as the match was due to start.*

per·ver·sion /pə'vɜːʃən, -ʒən‖pər'vɜːrʒən/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a perverted or twisted form of what is true, reasonable, etc.: *a newspaper story full of perversions of the truth* **2** [C] a form of sexual behaviour that is (considered) unnatural **3** [U] the action of perverting or the state of being perverted

per·ver·si·ty /pə'vɜːsḷti‖pər'vɜːr-/ *n* **1** [U] also **per·verse·ness** /pə'vɜːsnḷs‖pər'vɜːr-/— the quality or state of being perverse: *the perversity of the British weather* **2** [C] a perverse act

per·vert[1] /pə'vɜːt‖pər'vɜːrt/ *v* [T] **1** to lead into ways of thinking or forms of behaviour (esp. sexual behaviour) that are considered wrong or unnatural; DEPRAVE: *All this violence on TV is perverting the minds of our young children.* | *perverted sexual practices* **2** to use for a bad purpose: *Scientific knowledge was perverted to help cause destruction and war.* | *To* **pervert the course of justice** *is to try to prevent justice being done.* **3** to change or twist (the meaning of words)

per·vert[2] /'pɜːvɜːt‖'pɜːrvɜːrt/ *n derog* a person whose sexual behaviour is not (considered) natural

pe·se·ta /pə'seɪtə/ *n* a Spanish coin, on which the Spanish money system is based

pes·ky /'peski/ *adj* [A] *infml, esp. AmE* annoying and causing trouble

pe·so /'peɪsəʊ/ *n* **pesos** a small coin on which the money systems of many Spanish American countries are based

pes·sa·ry /'pesəri/ *n* **1** a medicine in solid form put into the female sex organ (VAGINA) —compare SUPPOSITORY **2** an instrument put into the VAGINA to support the WOMB or as a means of birth control

pes·si·mis·m /'pesḷmɪzəm/ *n* [U] a tendency to give more attention to the bad side of a situation or to expect the worst possible result —opposite **optimism**

pes·si·mist /'pesḷmɪst/ *n* a person who thinks that whatever happens will be bad: *Don't be such a pessimist — I'm sure you'll pass.* —opposite **optimist** —~**ic** /ˌpesḷ'mɪstɪk◂/ *adj* : *The experts are pessimistic about our chances of success.* —~**ically** /kli/ *adv*

pest /pest/ *n* **1** a usu. small animal or insect that harms or destroys food supplies: *Rabbits are great pests to farmers.* | *garden pests* | *pest control* **2** *infml* an annoying person or thing: *That child's a real pest; he's continually asking questions.*

pes·ter /'pestəʳ/ *v* [T (**for, with**)] *infml* to annoy (someone) continually, esp. with demands: *The beggars pestered the tourists for money.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *My daughter has been pestering me to take her with me.*

pes·ti·cide /'pestḷsaɪd/ *n* [C;U] a chemical substance used to kill PESTS (1)

pes·ti·lence /'pestḷləns/ *n* [C;U] *esp. old use* a disease that causes death and spreads quickly to large numbers of people, esp. BUBONIC PLAGUE

pes·ti·lent /'pestḷlənt/ also **pes·ti·len·tial** /ˌpestḷ'lenʃəl◂/— *adj* **1** *esp. old use* of or causing pestilence **2** *often humor* continually annoying and unpleasant

pes·tle /'pesəl, 'pestl/ *n* an instrument with a heavy rounded end, used for crushing substances in a special bowl (MORTAR) —see picture at LABORATORY

pet[1] /pet/ *n* **1** an animal kept in the home as a companion. Pets are much loved in Britain and the US and treated as members of the family: *Have you got any pets?* | *He keeps a monkey as a pet.* | *a pet dog/rabbit* | *pet food* **2** *often derog* a person, esp. a child, or thing given special and perhaps unfairly favourable treatment: *She is the* **teacher's pet.** | *his pet theory* **3** [*usu. sing.*] a person who is specially loved or lovable: *Come here, (my) pet!* —see also PET NAME

pet[2] *v* **-tt-** **1** [T] to touch kindly with the hands, showing love: *She petted the little dog.* **2** [I;T] *infml* to kiss and touch (someone else or each other) in sexual play —see also HEAVY PETTING

pet[3] *n old-fash* a sudden show of childish bad temper and impatience, esp. about something unimportant: *It's nothing to get* **in a pet** *about.* —see also PETTISH

Pé·tain /pe'tæŋ/, **Marshal Hen·ri** /'ɒnri‖ɑːn'riː/ (1856–1951) a French soldier who fought for France in the First World War and was made Prime Minister in 1940. He became head of the Vichy government which collaborated (COLLABORATE (2)) with the Nazis. After the war he was imprisoned for TREASON. —see also VICHY

pet·al /'petl/ *n* **1** any of the usu. coloured leaf like divisions of a flower: *rose petals* **2 -petalled** also **-petaled** *AmE* /'petld/ having petals of the stated number or kind —see picture at FLOWER

pe·tard /pḷ'tɑːd‖-ɑːrd/ *n* see **hoist with one's own petard** (HOIST)

pet·er[1] /'piːtəʳ/ *v*

peter out *phr v* [I] to come gradually to an end: *Interest in the project has petered out.* | *The road became narrower and rougher and eventually petered out.*

peter[2] *n* see BLUE PETER

Peter[1] **robbing Peter to pay Paul** to borrow money in order to pay someone else, or use money meant for one purpose for some other purpose: *To increase funding for universities at the expense of primary education is simply robbing Peter to pay Paul.*

Peter[2]**, Simon** see SAINT PETER

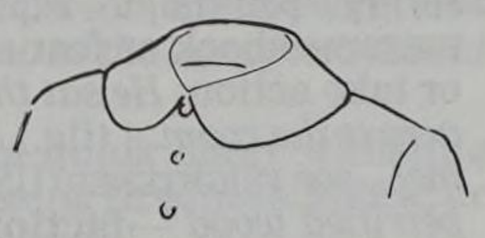
Peter Dom·i·nic /ˌpiːtə 'dɒmḷnɪk‖-tər 'dɑː-/ one of a group of British shops selling wines, beer, and spirits

Peter Jones /ˌ·· '·/ a large department store in Sloane Square, central London

Peter Pan /ˌ·· '·/ **1** the main character in a story by J M Barrie, a young boy who never grows up but lives in a magic land called **Never-Never Land**. In the story, three children, Michael, John, and Wendy, go with Peter Pan and the FAIRY, Tinkerbell to stay in the Never Never Land, where they have many adventures. Peter Pan's enemy in the story is Captain Hook, an evil PIRATE who has a metal hook in the place of one of his hands. Captain Hook lost his hand in a fight with Peter Pan, and Peter Pan threw the hand into some water. It was eaten by a crocodile, who liked the taste so much that it then followed Captain Hook around trying to catch and eat the rest of him. —see colour picture on page 619 **2** a man whose body or attitudes never seem to change as the years pass; a man who never seems to grow up: *the Peter Pan of the music business*

Peter Pan col·lar /ˌ·· · '··/ *n* a type of usu. small collar with rounded ends, used esp. on women's clothes

Peter Pan collar



Peter, Paul, and Ma·ry /ˌ·· ˌ·· '··/ a group of American popular music singers who were popular esp. in the 1960s and 1970s

Peter prin·ci·ple /'·· ˌ···/ *n* [S] *infml,* often *humor* the idea that each person in an organization is given higher rank with more responsibility until they reach their **level of incompetence** (=the level at which they cannot do the job properly). They then stay at this level, having a bad effect on the organization as a whole (from the name of its inventor, American educator **Laurence Peter**).

Peter Rab·bit /ˌ·· '··/ a character in children's stories by Beatrix Potter, a young rabbit who behaved badly but was still lovable

Pe·ter·son /'piːtəsən‖-tər-/, **Oscar** (1925–) a Canadian JAZZ piano player, famous for his original and inventive music

Peter's pence /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [S] **1** a one-penny tax paid in England until 1534 for the Pope **2** money freely given by Catholics in some countries to pay for the running of the Vatican

Peter the Great /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ also **Peter I** /ˌpiːtə ðə ˈfɜːst ‖ -tər ðə ˈfɜːrst/ (1672–1725) the TSAR (=ruler) of Russia from 1682–1725

pet food /ˈ· ·/ *n* food prepared specially for pets, esp. cats and dogs, and usu. preserved in tins

pet hate /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n BrE*‖also **pet peeve** esp. *AmE infml*– something that one finds particularly annoying, even when others do not find it so: *Small dogs are my pet peeve.* | *My pet hate is those stupid car horns that play a tune.*

pet·it bour·geois /ˌpeti ˈbʊəʒwɑː, -bʊəˈʒwɑː‖ˌpeti bʊərˈʒwɑː, pəˌtiː-/ also **petty bourgeois**– *n, adj Fr* **1** (a person, such as a small shopkeeper or skilled worker) of the lower middle class **2** BOURGEOIS[1] (2),[2]

pe·tite /pəˈtiːt/ *adj apprec* (of a woman or girl) having a small and neat figure: *a petite blonde*

petit four /ˌpeti ˈfʊəʳ, -ˈfɔːʳ/ *n Fr* a kind of small sweet cake or BISCUIT served with coffee, esp. at the end of a meal

pe·ti·tion[1] /pɪˈtɪʃən/ *n* **1** [(**for, against**)] (a piece or pieces of paper containing) a request or demand made to a government or other body, usu. signed by many people: *Will you sign our petition against using animals in scientific experiments?* | *to get up* (=arrange) *a petition* **2** an official letter to a court of law, asking for consideration of one's case **3** *fml* a solemn prayer or request to God, a ruler, etc.

petition[2] *v* [I;T (**for, against**)] to make or send a petition or official request: *We're petitioning for a new playground for the village children.* [+*to-v*] *The people petitioned to be allowed to return to their island.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *They petitioned the government to reconsider its decision.*

pe·ti·tion·er /pɪˈtɪʃənəʳ/ *n* **1** someone who makes or signs a petition **2** *law* someone asking for their marriage to be legally ended

petit mal /ˌpeti ˈmæl/ *n* [U] *Fr* a slight form of the disease of EPILEPSY –compare GRAND MAL

petit pain /ˌpeti ˈpæn/ *n* **petits pains**, (*same pronunciation*) *Fr* a small rich loaf for one person, often eaten warm with coffee at breakfast, esp. in France

pet name /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a name given to someone whom one specially likes or loves, used instead of that person's real name

Pet·o In·sti·tute /ˈpetəʊ ˌɪnstɪtjuːt‖-tuːt/ an institution in Budapest, Hungary, set up by **Dr Andras Peto** in 1945, which teaches children who cannot control their bodies properly to lead more independent lives by means of CONDUCTIVE EDUCATION

pet peeve /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* see PET HATE

Pet·ra /ˈpetrə/ the ruins of an ancient civilization in Jordan, where houses are cut into rock

pet·rel /ˈpetrəl/ *n* a black and white seabird –see also STORMY PETREL

Petrified For·est /ˌ··· ˈ··/ [*the*] a large national park in E Arizona, US, where the rock surfaces show FOSSILS of very old trees

pet·ri·fy /ˈpetrɪfaɪ/ *v* **1** [T] to put (someone) into a state of extreme shock or fear so that they are unable to think or take action: *He sat there petrified as the ghost glided across the room.* | (fig.) *My new boss absolutely petrifies me!* –see FRIGHTENED (USAGE) **2** [I;T] to turn into stone: *petrified wood* –**-faction** /ˌpetrɪˈfækʃən/ *n* [U] *fml*

pet·ro·chem·i·cal /ˌpetrəʊˈkemɪkəl◂/ *n* a chemical substance obtained from PETROLEUM or natural gas: *the petrochemical industry* | *a petrochemical plant* (=factory)

pet·ro·dol·lar /ˈpetrəʊˌdɒləʳ‖-ˌdɑːl-/ *n tech* an American dollar earned by the sale of oil, esp. by the oil-producing countries of the Middle East

Pet·ro·grad /ˈpetrəgræd/ the modern Russian name for St Petersburg, also used from 1914–24

pet·rol /ˈpetrəl/ *BrE* ‖ **gas, gasoline** *AmE*– *n* [U] a liquid obtained esp. from petroleum, used mainly for producing power in the engines of cars, aircraft, etc.: *We filled (the car) up with petrol before the long journey.* | *Six gallons|litres of petrol, please.* | *the petrol tank* | *petrol fumes* | *a petrol pump* | *two star|four star petrol* (=the number of stars showing the quality of the petrol) –see picture at PUMP

petrol bomb /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a type of bomb made by putting petrol inside a container, e.g. a bottle, attaching a piece of cloth, and lighting the cloth. Petrol bombs are thrown usu. by TERRORISTS or people involved in RIOTS.

pe·tro·le·um /pɪˈtrəʊliəm/ *n* [U] a mineral oil obtained from below the surface of the Earth, and used to produce petrol, PARAFFIN, and various chemical substances: *petroleum-based products*

petroleum jel·ly /ˌ·ˈ··· ˈ··/ also **Vaseline** *tdmk* ‖ also **pet·ro·la·tum** /ˌpetrəˈleɪtəm/*AmE*– *n* [U] a thick GREASE (2) substance made from petroleum, used esp. on cut or broken skin

pe·trol·o·gy /pɪˈtrɒlədʒi‖-ˈtrɑː-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of rocks –**-gist** *n*

petrol sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE*‖**filling station, gas station** *AmE*– *n* a place where you take your car and fill it with petrol. Most petrol stations also sell oil and small SPARE PARTS, and other goods such as cigarettes and sweets. Some will also do simple repairs.

Pet Shop Boys /ˈ· · ˌ·/, **The** two British popular singers popular among young people in the 1980s and 1990s. They are known esp. for their electronic music and their flat, unemotional style.

pet·ti·coat /ˈpetikəʊt/ also **slip** *BrE old-fash* ‖ **slip** *AmE*– *n* a woman's undergarment which hangs from the shoulders or waist

Petticoat Lane /ˌ··· ˈ·/ a street in the East End of London, officially called Middlesex Street, where a market is held every week on Sunday morning

pet·ti·fog·ging /ˈpetiˌfɒgɪŋ‖-ˌfɑː-, -ˌfɔː-/ *adj BrE derog* **1** needlessly concerned with small unimportant details: *I'm sick to death of those pettifogging bureaucrats!* **2** too small to be worth considering

pet·tish /ˈpetɪʃ/ *adj derog* impatiently angry; showing childish bad temper, esp. over something unimportant –see also PET[3] –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

pet·ty /ˈpeti/ *adj* **1** of (relatively) little importance; on a small scale: *Our problems seem petty when compared to those of people who never get enough to eat.* | *petty crime* **2** *derog* having or showing a mind that is limited, narrow, and ungenerous; SMALL-MINDED: *petty spite* | *Don't be so petty|petty-minded.* –**-tily** *adv* –**-tiness** *n* [U]

petty bour·geois /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n, adj* (a) PETIT BOURGEOIS

petty cash /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*) U] an amount of money kept ready in an office for making small payments

petty lar·ce·ny /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [C;U] *law* the stealing of articles of a value below a certain amount

petty of·fi·cer /ˌ·· ˈ···◂/ *n* a naval rank –see TABLE 3

pet·u·lant /ˈpetʃʊlənt/ *adj* showing childish bad temper over unimportant things, or for no reason at all –~**ly** *adv*: *"I won't!" she said petulantly.* –**-lance** *n* [U (**at**)]

pe·tu·ni·a /pɪˈtjuːniə‖pɪˈtuː-/ *n* a garden plant with colourful flowers shaped like a widening tube

Peu·geot /ˈpɜːʒəʊ‖pjuːˈʒəʊ/ also **Peugeot Tal·bot** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a French company that makes cars and bikes: *He works for Peugeot.* | *I've just bought a new Peugeot.*

pew /pjuː/ *n* **1** a long seat (BENCH (1)) with a back to it, for people to sit on in church. Pews are generally thought of as hard and uncomfortable. **2** *humor* a seat: *Take a pew!* (=sit down)

pew·ter /ˈpjuːtəʳ/ *n* [U] **1** a greyish metal made by mixing lead and tin: *a pewter tankard* **2** also **pewter ware** /ˈ·· ˌ·/– dishes, cups, etc., made from this

pey·ote /peɪˈəʊti/ *n* a kind of CACTUS plant which is used by NATIVE AMERICANS in Mexico and the American southwest in religious ceremonies and for making sick people well. The plant contains a drug called MESCALIN which is HALLUCINOGENIC (=causes dream-like thoughts which seem real).

Pey·ton Place /ˌpeɪtn ˈpleɪs/ a NOVEL by Grace Metalious, later made into a film. It takes place in a small town among a few people who have difficult emotional relationships and treat each other badly. People sometimes say that a situation is like Peyton Place, meaning that there are many secrets, BETRAYALS, and emotional upsets.

Pfeif·fer /ˈfaɪfəʳ/, **Mi·chelle** /miːˈʃel/ (1959–) an

American film actress, regarded as one of the most beautiful. Her films include *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Fabulous Baker Boys*. —see colour picture on page 228

pfen·nig /'fenɪg/ *n* a small German coin worth one hundredth ($^1/_{100}$) of a MARK[3]

PG /ˌpi: 'dʒi:/ parental guidance; (of a film) which may in parts be unsuitable for children under 15. Children may watch PG films only if they are with an adult. —compare U[3]

PGA /ˌpi: dʒi: 'eɪ/ [*the*] Professional Golfers' Association; an American organization for those who make money from GOLF either by playing it, running golf courses, or teaching. The organization runs the **PGA Championship**, a golfing competition.

PGCE /ˌpi: dʒi: si: 'i:/ *n* (in Britain) postgraduate certificate of education; a qualification that allows people who have been to university to teach in state schools: *I'm planning to do a PGCE next year.* | *Have you got a PGCE?*

PG Tips /ˌpi: dʒi: 'tɪps/ *tdmk* a kind of tea sold in Britain, known for its advertisements which feature CHIMPANZEEs dressed to look like humans

pH /pi: 'eɪtʃ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a number which represents the degree to which a substance, esp. soil, is acid or ALKALINE (ALKALI): *to test the pH of the soil*

phae·ton /'feɪtn‖'feɪətn/ *n* a light open carriage used in former times, usu. pulled by two horses

phag·o·cyte /'fægəsaɪt/ *n med* a blood cell, such as a LEUCOCYTE, which protects the body by destroying harmful bacteria, etc.

pha·lanx /'fælæŋks‖'feɪ-/ *n* **-lanxes** *or* **-langes** /fə'lændʒi:z/ **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group of men or animals packed closely together, esp. for attack or defence: *A phalanx of policemen bore down on the rioters.* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] (esp. in ancient Greece) a group of soldiers packed closely together for better protection **3** *med* a bone in a finger or toe

phal·lic /'fælɪk/ *adj* of or like a phallus: *a phallic symbol*

phal·lus /'fæləs/ *n* an image of the male sex organ (PENIS), esp. as used in some forms of religion as a sign of the power of man to produce children

phan·tas·m /'fæntæzəm/ *n esp. lit* something that exists only in the imagination; an ILLUSION —**phantasmal** /fæn'tæzməl/ *adj*

phan·tas·ma·go·ri·a /fænˌtæzmə'gɔ:riə, ˌfæntæz-/ *n* [(**of**)] a confused dreamlike changing scene of different things, real and/or imagined —**-ric** /'gɒrɪk‖'gɑ:-, 'gɔ:-/, **-rical** *adj*

phan·ta·sy /'fæntəsi/ *n* [C;U] *old use for* FANTASY

phan·tom /'fæntəm/ *n* **1** a shadowy likeness of a dead person that seems to appear on earth; GHOST: *phantom riders passing by in the night* | (fig., *humor*) *The phantom letter-writer has been here again; all my stationery has disappeared!* **2** something that exists only in one's imagination: *the phantoms that troubled his dreams*

Phantom of the Op·e·ra /ˌ·· · · '···/ [*the*] a story about a man wearing a MASK who KIDNAPS an OPERA singer. There are many different films and plays based on the story.

phantom preg·nan·cy /ˌ·· '···/ also **hysterical pregnancy** *AmE*– *n* a condition in which a woman seems to be PREGNANT but in fact is not

pha·raoh /'feərəʊ/ *n* (*often cap.*) a ruler of ancient Egypt: *Pharaoh Rameses II*

phar·i·sa·ic /ˌfærɪ'seɪ·ɪk◂/ also **phar·i·sa·i·cal** /-ɪkəl/– *adj fml derog* making a show of being good and religious —**-ism** /'færɪseɪ·ɪzəm/ *n* [U]

phar·i·see /'færɪsi:/ *n fml derog* a person who in a self-satisfied way values too highly the outward form of something, esp. a religion, rather than its true meaning

Pharisee *n* a member of a group of Jews in ancient Jerusalem who were very careful and serious in obeying religious laws, and considered themselves very holy because of this. In the Bible, Jesus criticized them for being HYPOCRITES.

phar·ma·ceu·ti·cal /ˌfɑ:mə'sju:tɪkəl◂‖ˌfɑ:rmə'su:-/ *adj* connected with (the making of) medicine: *the large pharmaceutical companies* —**-cally** /kli/ *adv*

phar·ma·cist /'fɑ:məsɪst‖'fɑ:r-/ *n* ‖*also* **druggist** *AmE*– a skilled person who owns or runs a pharmacy; CHEMIST (3)

phar·ma·col·o·gy /ˌfɑ:mə'kɒlədʒi‖ˌfɑ:rmə'kɑ:-/ *n* [U] the scientific study of medicines and drugs —**-gist** *n*

phar·ma·co·poe·ia /ˌfɑ:məkə'pi:ə‖ˌfɑ:r-/ *n tech* **1** an official book describing medicines, what they contain, the amount to be given to a sick person, etc. **2** all the medicines that are (officially permitted to be) used in a particular country

phar·ma·cy /'fɑ:məsi‖'fɑ:r-/ *n* **1** [C] a (part of a) shop where medicines are sold: *an all-night pharmacy* —compare DISPENSARY, DRUGSTORE **2** [U] (the study of) the making and/or giving out of medicine

phar·yn·gi·tis /ˌfærɪn'dʒaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] *med* a medical condition that includes soreness of the throat

phar·ynx /'færɪŋks/ *n med* the tube at the back of the mouth that leads from the back of the nose to the point where the air-passage and food-passage divide —see picture at RESPIRATORY

phase[1] /feɪz/ *n* **1** [(**in, of**)] a stage of development: *The new weapons system is still in the research phase.* | *The election campaign has now entered a critical phase/its final phase.* | *Don't worry about your son's shyness; it's just a* **phase he's going through**. —compare STAGE[1] (2) **2** [(**of**)] any of a fixed number of changes in the appearance of the moon or a PLANET as seen from the Earth at different times during their ORBIT: *the phases of the moon* **3 in/out of phase (with)** *tech* working/not working or going together (with another or each other): *The carrier wave has got out of phase with the signal wave.*

phase[2] *v* [T] to plan or arrange in separate phases: *The army is making a* **phased withdrawal** *from the occupied territory.*

phase sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to introduce (something) in stages or gradually: *The government is going to phase in the new pension scheme over five years.*

phase sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to stop or remove (something) in stages or gradually: *The bus service to country areas is being phased out.* —**phase-out** /'· ·/ *n*

PhD /ˌpi: eɪtʃ 'di:/ also **D Phil**– *n* Doctor of Philosophy; (a title for someone who has) a university degree of very high rank, above an MA or MSc, which takes about three years and usu. involves doing research. Someone who has a PhD is said to have a **doctorate** and is often given the title of **Dr**: *Jacqueline Hope, PhD* | *Dr Jacqueline Hope*

pheas·ant /'fezənt/ *n* **pheasants** *or* **pheasant** a large long-tailed bird shot for food, the male of which is usu. brightly coloured. Pheasants can legally be shot in certain seasons in Britain and the US, and in Britain shooting them is a generally UPPER-CLASS sport. —see picture at BIRD

phe·no·bar·bi·tone /ˌfi:nəʊ'bɑ:bɪtəʊn‖-'bɑ:r-/ *BrE* ‖ **phe·no·bar·bi·tal** /-bɪtl‖-bɪtɔ:l/ *esp. AmE*– *n* [U] a powerful calming drug that helps a person to sleep

phe·nom·e·nal /fɪ'nɒmɪnəl‖-'nɑ:-/ *adj* **1** *usu. apprec* very unusual; EXTRAORDINARY: *phenomenal strength* | *a phenomenal* (=very powerful) *memory* **2** [*no comp.*] *fml* known through the senses: *a phenomenal experience* —~**ly** *adj* : *phenomenally strong*

phe·nom·e·non /fɪ'nɒmɪnən‖fɪ'nɑ:mɪnɑ:n, -nən/ *n* **-na** /nə/ **1** a fact, event, type of behaviour, etc., that exists and can be experienced by the senses, esp. one that is unusual and/or of scientific interest: *Magnetism is a natural phenomenon.* | *Snow in Egypt is an almost unknown phenomenon.* | *International terrorism is not just a recent phenomenon.* **2** a very unusual person, thing, event, etc.: *A child who could play the piano at the age of two would indeed be a phenomenon.*

phew /fju:/ also **whew** *interj* (a quick short whistling breath, either in or out, expressing tiredness, shock, or RELIEF)

phi·al /'faɪəl/ also **vial**– *n* a small bottle, esp. for liquid medicines: *a phial of morphine*

Phi Be·ta Kap·pa /ˌfaɪ ˌbi:tə 'kæpə/ *n* (someone who is a member of) an American society for the recognition of ACADEMIC high achievement in university and college students. This **honor society** was started in 1776. Students are elected for this highly-respected honour in their third or fourth year of college.

Phil·a·del·phi·a /ˌfɪlə'delfiə/ *also* **Philly** *infml* a city in the US state of Pennsylvania, where the Declaration of Independence from Britain was signed in 1776. Philadelphia is the fifth largest city in the US. —see colour map on pages 1374–5

phi·lan·der·er /fɪ'lændərəʳ/ *n old-fash derog* a man who

amuses himself by having (sexual) relations with (many) women, with no serious intentions —**-dering** *adj, n* [A;U]

phil·an·throp·ic /ˌfɪlənˈθrɒpɪk◂‖-ˈθrɑː-/ *adj* of or showing philanthropy: *a philanthropic attitude | our philanthropic institutions* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

phi·lan·thro·pist /fɪˈlænθrəpɪst/ *n* a person who helps those who are poor or in trouble, esp. a rich person who gives generous gifts of money

phi·lan·thro·py /fɪˈlænθrəpi/ *n* [U] a feeling of kindness and love for all people, esp. as shown in an active way by giving help or money to people who are poor or in trouble

phi·lat·e·ly /fɪˈlætəli/ *n* [U] *tech* stamp collecting —**-list** *n* —**-lic** /ˌfɪləˈtelɪk◂/ *adj*

Phil·by /ˈfɪlbi/, **Kim** /kɪm/ (1911–88) an English SPY who was already working for the Soviet Union when he was employed by the British government. He went to the Soviet Union to live in 1963 before he could be caught. —see also Anthony BLUNT, Guy BURGESS, Donald MACLEAN

Phil·har·mo·ni·a Or·ches·tra /ˌfɪləməʊniə ˈɔːkɪstrə, ˌfɪlhɑː-‖-hɑːrməʊniə ˈɔːr-/ *n* [*the*] an important London ORCHESTRA, begun in 1945

phil·har·mon·ic /ˌfɪləˈmɒnɪk◂, ˌfɪlhɑː-‖ˌfɪlərˈmɑː-, ˌfɪlhɑːr-/ *adj* [A] (*usu. cap.*) (used in names of musical organizations): *the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*

Phil·ip /ˈfɪlɪp/, **Prince** (1921–) DUKE OF EDINBURGH and husband of the British queen, ELIZABETH II. Prince Philip was born into the Greek royal family but became a British citizen in 1947. He has no official position but is involved in many public organizations and charities (CHARITY).

Phil·ip Mor·ris /ˌfɪlɪp ˈmɒrɪs‖-mɔːr-/ an American MANUFACTURING company known mostly for tobacco products

phi·lip·pic /fɪˈlɪpɪk/ *n lit or fml* a bitter angry speech attacking someone in public

Phil·ip·pines /ˈfɪlɪpiːnz‖ˌfɪləˈpiːnz/ [*the*] a country made up of a group of over 7,000 islands off the SE coast of Asia; capital Manila; population 60,097,000 (1989). Much of its foreign trade is with the US, and there are important US military bases there.

phil·is·tine /ˈfɪlɪstaɪn‖-stiːn/ *n derog* a person who does not understand and actively dislikes art, literature, music, beautiful things, etc., and is proud to remain in this condition —**-tinism** /stɪnɪzəm/ *n* [U]

Philistine a member of a race of people, the **Philistines**, who lived in the area of Palestine in Biblical times

Phil·lips /ˈfɪlɪps/, **Captain Mark** (1949–) an English army officer who was the husband of Princess Anne from 1973 until they separated in 1989 and divorced (DIVORCE) in 1992

Philly /ˈfɪli/ see PHILADELPHIA

phi·lol·o·gy /fɪˈlɒlədʒi‖-ˈlɑː-/ *n* [U] *old-fash tech* the study of the nature and esp. development of words or language —compare LINGUISTICS —**-gist** *n* —**-gical** /fɪləˈlɒdʒɪkəl‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* —**-gically** /kli/ *adv*

phi·los·o·pher /fɪˈlɒsəfəʳ‖-ˈlɑː-/ *n* **1** a person who studies, has much knowledge of, and usu. teaches philosophy: *Plato, Aristotle, and the other Greek philosophers* **2** a PHILOSOPHICAL (2) person: *If you've had as much trouble as I've had in my life, you need to be a bit of a philosopher.*

philosopher's stone /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* an imaginary substance that was thought in former times to have the power to change any other metal into gold

phil·o·soph·i·cal /ˌfɪləˈsɒfɪkəl◂‖-ˈsɑː-/ also **phil·o·soph·ic** /ˌfɪləˈsɒfɪk◂‖-ˈsɑː-/— *adj* **1** of or about philosophy: *the philosophical writings of Sartre* **2** [(**about**)] *apprec* accepting difficulty or unhappiness with calmness and quiet courage: *a philosophical nature | She was quite philosophical about failing her driving test.* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv* : *He took his defeat philosophically.*

phi·los·o·phize also **-phise** *BrE* /fɪˈlɒsəfaɪz‖-ˈlɑː-/ *v* [I (**about**)] to reason in a PHILOSOPHICAL (1) way

phi·los·o·phy /fɪˈlɒsəfi‖-ˈlɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] the study of the nature and meaning of existence, reality, knowledge, goodness, etc. **2** [C] any of various systems of thought having this as its base: *the philosophy of Aristotle* | (fig.) *Eat, drink, and be merry – that's my philosophy!* (=my rule for living life) —see also NATURAL PHILOSOPHY

phil·tre ‖ also **-ter** *AmE* /ˈfɪltəʳ/ *n esp. lit* a magic drink intended to make a person fall in love

phiz·og /ˈfɪzɒg‖-zɑːg/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *old-fash humor, esp. BrE* the face

phle·bi·tis /flɪˈbaɪtɪs/ *n* [U] a diseased swollen condition of the tubes carrying blood through the body (VEINS)

phlegm /flem/ *n* [U] **1** the thick jelly-like substance (MUCUS) produced in the nose and throat, esp. when one has a cold **2** *fml, often apprec* slowness in showing feeling, interest, or activity; calmness

phleg·mat·ic /fleg ˈmætɪk/ *adj fml, often apprec* calm and unexcitable: *He's a very phlegmatic character.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

phlox /flɒks‖flɑːks/ *n* **1** a tall garden plant which produces groups of brightly coloured flowers **2** *AmE* a low, spreading plant which has flowers in the spring

Phnom Penh /ˌnɒm ˈpen, pəˌnɒm-‖ˌnɑːm-/ capital of Cambodia, taken by the KHMER ROUGE in 1975, when most of the population was sent out to work in the country

pho·bi·a /ˈfəʊbiə/ *n* [(**about**)] a strong, unnatural, and usu. unreasonable fear and dislike; common phobias are fear of water, flying, heights, and closed spaces: *He needs help in overcoming his phobias.* —**phobic** *n, adj*

phoe·nix /ˈfiːnɪks/ *n* in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a bird believed to live for 500 years and then burn itself and be born again from the ashes: *We all thought the airline was finished when it went bankrupt, but it* **rose phoenix-like/like a phoenix from the ashes.**

Phoenix the capital and largest city of Arizona —see colour map on pages 1374–5

phone[1] /fəʊn/ *n* a telephone: *Are you* **on the phone?** (=Do you own a telephone?) | *I spoke to him by phone.* | *The phone was ringing so she answered it.* | *a long-distance phone call* | *What's your phone number?* | *He picked up the phone.* (=the part into which one speaks; RECEIVER) | *I was so angry I slammed down the phone.*

phone[2] ‖ also **call** *AmE*— *v* [I;T (UP)] to telephone: *Has she phoned yet?* | *I phoned him (up) last night.* | *He phoned (me) to say he couldn't come.* | *I'll phone the result of the test to you.* —see TELEPHONE (USAGE)

phone (sthg. ↔) **in** *phr v* [I;T] to telephone (one's place of work) to report something or receive new instructions, esp. regularly: *How many of our salesmen have phoned in so far?* | *He phoned in the results of the poll.* —see also PHONE-IN

-phone see WORD FORMATION

phone book /ˈ· ·/ also **telephone directory** *fml*— *n* a book containing an alphabetical list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all the people who have a telephone in a certain area except for those who wish these details to remain private: *Are you in the phone book?* — see TELEPHONE (USAGE), compare YELLOW PAGES

phone box /ˈ· ·/ also **call box, phone booth, telephone box, telephone booth**‖*usu.* **phone booth** *or* **telephone booth** *AmE*— *n* a small building or structure containing a telephone for use by the public —see TELEPHONE (USAGE). See picture on page 989

phone·card /ˈfəʊnkɑːd‖-kɑːrd/ *n* (in Britain) a plastic card bought from certain shops which is used in some pay telephones instead of money

phone-in /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **call-in** *AmE*— *n* a radio or television show in which telephoned questions, statements, etc., from the public are broadcast. A particular subject is usu. discussed each time and there may be one or more people in the STUDIO answering questions and giving information.

pho·neme /ˈfəʊniːm/ *n tech* the smallest unit of speech that can be used to make a word different from another that is the same in every other way: *In English, the "b" in "big" and the "p" in "pig" represent two different phonemes.* —**-nemic** /fəˈniːmɪk/ *adj* —**-nemically** /kli/ *adv*

pho·ne·mics /fəˈniːmɪks/ *n* [U] *tech* the study and description of the phonemes of languages

phone-tap·ping /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] listening secretly to other people's telephone conversations by means of special ELECTRONIC equipment

pho·net·ic /fəˈnetɪk/ *adj tech* **1** of or about the sounds of human speech **2** using special signs, often different

from ordinary letters, to represent the actual sounds of speech: *This dictionary uses a phonetic alphabet as a guide to pronunciation.* | *These are phonetic symbols/characters:* ə, ɪ, ʃ, ʊ. —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pho·ne·ti·cian /ˌfəʊnəˈtɪʃən/ *n tech* a person who has special knowledge of phonetics

pho·net·ics /fəˈnetɪks/ *n* [U] *tech* the study and science of speech sounds

pho·ney also **-ny** *AmE* /ˈfəʊni/ *n, adj infml, usu. derog* (someone or something) pretended, false, unreal, or intended to deceive; FAKE: *He's such a phoney.* | *a phoney accent* | *I gave the police a phoney address.* —**-niness** *n* [U]

phoney war /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n infml* a period during which a state of war officially exists but there is no actual fighting

phon·ic /ˈfɒnɪk, ˈfəʊ-‖ˈfɑː-/ *adj tech* **1** of sound **2** of speech sounds

pho·no·graph /ˈfəʊnəgrɑːf‖-græf/ *n old-fash AmE for* RECORD PLAYER

pho·nol·o·gy /fəˈnɒlədʒi‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the study of speech sounds of a language or languages, and the laws governing these —**-gist** *n* —**-gical** /ˌfɒnəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖ˌfɑːnə-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* —**-gically** /kli/ *adv*

phoo·ey /ˈfuːi/ *interj infml* (used for expressing strong disbelief or disappointment)

phos·phate /ˈfɒsfeɪt‖ˈfɑːs-/ *n* [C;U] **1** any of various forms of a SALT[1] (2) of PHOSPHORIC acid, widely used in industry **2** [*usu. pl.*] a material containing a phosphate, used for making plants grow better

phos·pho·res·cence /ˌfɒsfəˈresəns‖ˌfɑːs-/ *n* [U] **1** the giving out of light with little or no heat **2** faint light that is only noticeable in the dark, such as that given out by decaying fish and some insects and sea creatures

phos·pho·res·cent /ˌfɒsfəˈresənt◂‖ˌfɑːs-/ *adj* shining faintly in the dark with little or no heat: *You can see a strange phosphorescent light at night on tropical seas.* —~**ly** *adv*

phos·phor·ic /fɒsˈfɒrɪk‖fɑːsˈfɔː-, fɑːsˈfɑː-, ˈfɑːsfərɪk/ *adj* of or containing phosphorus: *phosphoric acid*

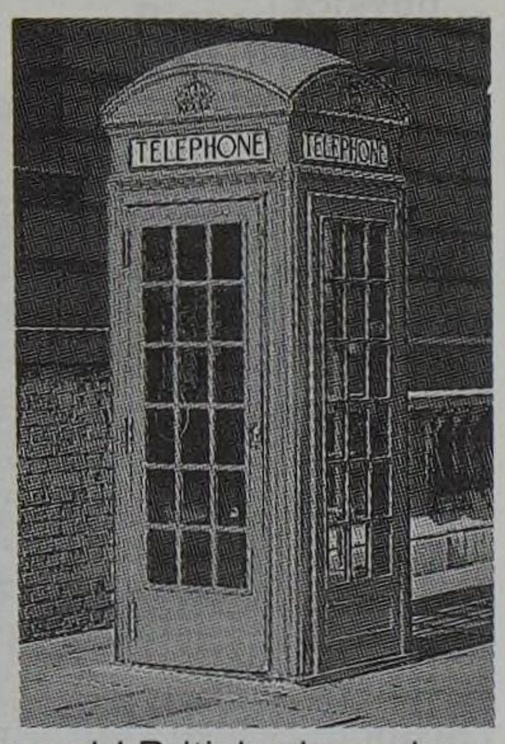
phos·pho·rus /ˈfɒsfərəs‖ˈfɑːs-/ *n* [U] a poisonous yellowish simple substance (ELEMENT) that shines faintly in the dark and starts to burn when brought out into the air

pho·to /ˈfəʊtəʊ/ *n* **-tos** *infml* a photograph: *She showed him her photos of Spain.* | *to take a photo* | *a photo album*

photo- see WORD FORMATION

pho·to·cop·i·er /ˈfəʊtəʊˌkɒpiəʳ‖-təˌkɑː-/ *n* a machine that makes photocopies

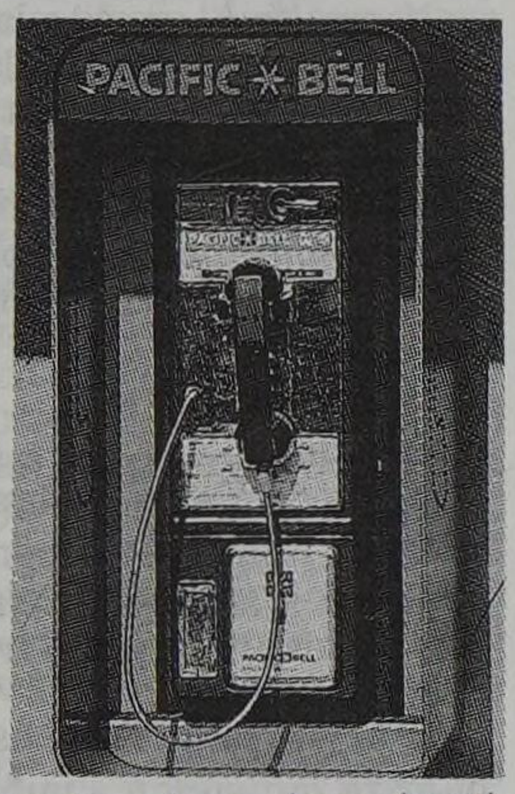
phone boxes



an old British phone box



a new British phone box



an American phone booth

phonetic symbols

/fəˌnetɪk ˈsɪmbəlz/

pho·to·cop·y[1] /ˈfəʊtəʊˌkɒpi‖-təˌkɑːpi/ *n* a photographic copy, esp. of something printed, written, or drawn: *I made/took two photocopies of the report.* —compare PHOTOSTAT[1], XEROX

photocopy[2] *v* [T] to make a photocopy of —compare PHOTOSTAT[2], XEROX

pho·to·e·lec·tric /ˌfəʊtəʊ-ɪˈlektrɪk◂/ *adj* of or using an electrical effect which is controlled by light

photoelectric cell /ˌ····· ˈ·/ *n* **1** an instrument that changes light into electricity **2** also **electric/magic eye** *infml*— an instrument by which light is made to start an electrical apparatus working, often used in BURGLAR ALARMS

photo fin·ish /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* the end of a race, esp. a horse or dog race, in which the leaders finish so close together that a photograph has to be taken to show which is the winner: (fig.) *The election resulted in a photo finish.* (=the winner only had a few more votes than the loser)

Pho·to·fit /ˈfəʊtəʊfɪt/ *adj* [A] *tdmk* a collection of photographs of parts of the face which can be fitted together to produce complete pictures of different faces, so that witnesses to a crime can help the police to make the face that looks most like that of the criminal: *The police have issued a Photofit picture of the attacker.* —compare IDENTIKIT

pho·to·gen·ic /ˌfəʊtəʊˈdʒenɪk◂, ˌfəʊtə-/ *adj* (esp. of a person) having an appearance that looks pleasing or effective when photographed

pho·to·graph[1] /ˈfəʊtəgrɑːf‖-græf/ also **photo, picture** *infml*— *n* a picture obtained by using a camera and film sensitive to light: *a black and white/colour photograph* | *He* **took a photograph of** (=photographed) *his son.* | *Did you see John's photograph* (=a photograph of John) *in the local paper?* | *an aerial photograph* (=taken from the air)

photograph[2] *v* **1** [T] to make a picture of (someone or something) by using a camera and film sensitive to light: *He enjoys photographing mountain landscapes.* **2** [I+*adv*] to produce an effect, likeness, or picture of the stated kind when used as the subject of a photograph: *She photographs well.*

pho·tog·ra·pher /fəˈtɒgrəfəʳ‖-ˈtɑː-/ *n* a person who takes photographs, esp. as a business or an art: *a portrait photographer* | *a fashion photographer* | *a keen amateur photographer*

pho·to·graph·ic /ˌfəʊtəˈgræfɪk◂/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of, got by, or used in producing photographs: *photographic equipment* | *a photographic studio* **2** (of a person's memory) able to keep an image of things that one has seen with very great exactness —-~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pho·tog·ra·phy /fəˈtɒgrəfi‖-ˈtɑː-/ *n* [U] the art, system, or business of producing photographs or films: *Photography is one of his hobbies.* | *There was some marvellous wildlife photography in the documentary.*

pho·to·jour·nal·is·m /ˌfəʊtəʊˈdʒɜːnəl-ɪzəm‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] the use of photographs to record and make statements about news events

pho·ton /ˈfəʊtɒn‖-tɑːn/ *n* a unit of ENERGY with no mass that carries light

Pho·to·rea·lis·m /ˌfəʊtəʊˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] an art movement in the 1960s and 1970s which gave great importance to making very exact images of objects, esp. by painting

pho·to·sen·si·tive /ˌfəʊtəʊˈsensəˌtɪv◂‖-təˈsen-/ *adj* changing under the action of light: *photosensitive paper*

pho·to·sen·si·tize also **-tise** *BrE* /ˌfəʊtəʊˈsensəˌtaɪz‖-təˈsen-/ *v* [T] to make photosensitive: *photosensitized paper* —**-tization** /ˌfəʊtəʊsensəˌtaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-təˈzeɪ-/ *n* [U]

pho·to·stat[1] /ˈfəʊtəstæt/ *n tdmk* (*sometimes cap.*) (a type of machine used for making) a PHOTOCOPY —~**ic** /ˌfəʊtəˈstætɪk◂/ *adj*

photostat[2] *v* **-tt-** [T] to PHOTOCOPY, esp. using a photostat

pho·to·syn·the·sis /ˌfəʊtəʊˈsɪnθəsəs‖-təˈsɪn-/ *n* [U] the production of special sugar-like substances that keep plants alive, caused by the action of sunlight on CHLOROPHYLL (=the green matter in leaves); the way green plants make their own food

pho·to·type·set·ter /ˌfəʊtəʊˈtaɪpsetəʳ/ *n* a TYPESETTER that works like a camera, using light to print images of characters on photographic paper —**-ting** *n* [U]

phras·al /ˈfreɪzəl/ *adj* made up of or connected with a phrase or phrases

phrasal verb /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a group of words that acts like a verb and consists usu. of a verb with an adverb and/or a PREPOSITION. *"Set off"* and *"put up with"* are phrasal verbs. In this dictionary phrasal verbs are marked *phr v*

phrase[1] /freɪz/ *n* **1** (in grammar) a group of words without a FINITE verb, esp. when they are used to form part of a sentence: *"Walking along the road" and "a packet of cigarettes" are phrases.* —compare CLAUSE (1), SENTENCE[1] (1) **2** a short expression, esp. one that is clever and very suited to what is meant: *He was — what is the phrase I'm looking for — not intimately acquainted with his subject.* —see also **to coin a phrase** (COIN[2]), **turn a phrase** (TURN[1]) **3** a short independent passage of music that is part of a longer piece

phrase[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **1** to express in the stated way: *He phrased his criticisms carefully/in careful terms.* | *a politely-phrased refusal* **2** to perform (music) so as to give full effect to separate PHRASES[1] (3)

phrase·book /ˈfreɪzbʊk/ *n* a book giving and explaining phrases of a particular (foreign) language, for people to use when they go abroad

phra·se·ol·o·gy /ˌfreɪziˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] the way in which words are chosen, arranged, and/or used, esp. in the stated subject or field: *I don't understand all this scientific phraseology.*

phre·no·lo·gy /frəˈnɒlədʒi‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of the shape of the human head, claimed to show a subject's character and mental ability, esp. popular in the 19th century —**phrenologist** *n*

phut /fʌt/ *n infml* **1** *BrE* a dull sound like something bursting **2 go phut‖go kaput** to break down completely: *The television's gone phut.*

phy·lum /ˈfaɪləm/ *n* **phyla** /ˈfaɪlə/ *tech* a main division of animals or plants (or languages), above a CLASS[1] (6)

Phys. Ed. /ˌfɪz ˈed/ *n AmE abbrev. for:* PHYSICAL EDUCATION

phys·ic /ˈfɪzɪk/ *n* [C;U] *old use or humor* (a) medicine, esp. a LAXATIVE: *a dose of physic* —see also PHYSICS

phys·i·cal[1] /ˈfɪzɪkəl/ *adj* **1** of or for the body: *physical exercise* | *physical strength* | *people with mental or physical disabilities* | *a complete physical examination* —see also PHYSICAL[2] **2** of or being matter or material things, as opposed to things of the mind, spirit, etc.: *the physical world* **3** of or according to the laws of nature: *There must be a physical explanation for these strange happenings.* **4** [A] concerning the natural formation of the Earth's surface: *physical geography* **5** [A] (of certain sciences) of the branch that is connected with physics: *physical chemistry* **6** *euph* (esp. in sports) using violence; rough: *That tackle was rather physical!* —see also PHYSICALLY

physical[2] also **medical, physical ex·am·i·na·tion** /ˌ··· ···ˈ··/— *n* a thorough examination of the body and general health of a person by a doctor, esp. in order to discover whether they are fit to do a particular job: *The company insisted that he had a complete physical.* | *to pass/fail the physical* —compare CHECKUP

physical ed·u·ca·tion /ˌ··· ··ˈ··/ (*abbrev.* **P.E., Phys. Ed.** *AmE*) *n* [U] the time spent in school at sports and exercise

physical jerks /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [P] *humor* bodily exercises

phys·i·cally /ˈfɪzɪkli/ *adv* **1** with regard to the body: *He's all right physically, but mentally he's rather confused.* **2** *infml* completely: *It's* **physically impossible** *to finish all this work by the end of the week.*

physically chal·lenged /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *adj AmE euph* physically HANDICAPPED

physical sci·ence /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* [U] those branches of science which are concerned mainly with non-living things, e.g. PHYSICS, chemistry, and ASTRONOMY

physical train·ing /ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **physical education**— *n* see PT

phy·si·cian /fɪˈzɪʃən/ *n old-fash* **1** a doctor, esp. one who treats diseases with medicines (as opposed to a SURGEON, who performs operations) **2 physician, heal thyself** a phrase from the Bible, used when saying that a person should deal with their own problems or weaknesses before they begin to advise others

phys·i·cist /ˈfɪzɪsɪst/ *n* a person who studies or works in physics

phys·ics /ˈfɪzɪks/ *n* [U] the science concerned with the study of matter and natural forces, such as light, heat, movement, etc.

phys·i·o /ˈfɪziəʊ/ *n* **-s** *infml* a physiotherapist

phys·i·og·no·my /ˌfɪziˈɒnəmi‖-ˈɑː-, -ˈɑːg-/ *n fml or tech* the general appearance of the face, esp. as showing the character and the mind

phys·i·ol·o·gy /ˌfɪziˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] a science concerned with the study of how the bodies of living things, and their various parts, work —compare ANATOMY —**-gist** *n* —**-gical** /ˌfɪziəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* : *The doctors could find no physiological cause for his illness, and decided it must be psychosomatic.*

phys·i·o·ther·a·py /ˌfɪziəʊˈθerəpi/ *n* [U] the use of exercises, rubbing, heat, etc., in the treatment of sick people —**-pist** *n*

phy·sique /fɪˈziːk/ *n* the form and appearance of a human body, esp. a male body: *He has a magnificent physique.* (=has large muscles and is not at all fat)

pi /paɪ/ *n* a letter (Π, π) of the Greek alphabet, used in GEOMETRY to represent the fixed RATIO of the CIRCUMFERENCE of a circle to its DIAMETER: *Pi equals/The value of pi is about* $^{22}/_{7}$*, or 3·14159.*

Pi·af /ˈpiːæf‖piːˈɑːf/, **E·dith** /ˈiːdɪθ/ *n* (1915–63) a popular French CABARET singer and songwriter, sometimes called the **Little Sparrow**. She had many problems in her life and her music has a feeling of strength and sadness. Her best-known songs are *Milord* and *Je ne regrette rien.*

pi·a·nist /ˈpiːənɪst, ˈpjɑː-‖piˈænɪst, ˈpiːə-/ *n* a person who plays the piano, esp. with skill: *a concert pianist*

pi·an·o[1] /piˈænəʊ/ also **pi·an·o·for·te** /piˌænəʊˈfɔːti‖ -ˈfɔːrteɪ/*fml*— *n* **-os** a large musical instrument, played by pressing narrow black or white bars (KEYS) which cause small hammers to hit wire strings: *to play the piano* | *to have piano lessons* | *a piano stool* —see also GRAND PIANO, UPRIGHT PIANO, see INSTRUMENT (USAGE)

pi·an·o[2] /piˈænəʊ, piˈɑː-‖piˈænəʊ/ *adj, adv* (of music) played quietly —compare FORTE[2]

Pi·a·no·la /ˌpiːəˈnəʊlə/ *n tdmk* (*often not cap.*) a type of PLAYER PIANO

piano stool /·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a seat the height of which can be changed to suit different heights of people playing a piano

pi·as·tre ‖ also **-ter** *AmE* /piˈæstəʳ/ *n* a small coin or banknote in Egypt, Syria, the Lebanon, and the Sudan, worth one hundredth $^{1}/_{100}$ of the units on which their money systems are based

pi·az·za /piˈætsə/ *n* a public square or market place, esp. in Italy

pic·a·dor /ˈpɪkədɔːʳ/ *n* (in a BULLFIGHT) a man on horseback who annoys and weakens the BULL by sticking a long spearlike weapon into it —compare MATADOR

pic·a·resque /ˌpɪkəˈresk◂/ *adj tech* telling the story of the adventures and travels of a character of whom one rather disapproves but who is usu. not really wicked: *a picaresque novel*

Pi·cas·so /pɪˈkæsəʊ‖-ˈkɑː-/, **Pab·lo** /ˈpæbləʊ‖ˈpɑː-/ (1881–1973) a Spanish painter who worked in France; one of the FOUNDERS of CUBISM. His work is usu. divided into periods e.g. his **blue period**. One of his most famous paintings is *Guernica*, a criticism of war and FASCISM. — see picture at CUBISM

Pic·ca·dil·ly /ˌpɪkəˈdɪli◂/ a central London street that runs beside GREEN PARK between Hyde Park Corner and Piccadilly Circus. Buildings on Piccadilly include expensive hotels, clubs, and offices.

Piccadilly Cir·cus /ˌ···· ˈ··/ a busy square in central London known for the figure of EROS in the middle and for its lively night-life — see colour map on page 817.

pic·ca·lil·li /ˌpɪkəˈlɪli/ *n* [U] a hot-tasting food made with cut-up vegetables, usu. eaten with meat

pic·ca·nin·ny , pick·a- /ˌpɪkəˈnɪni, ˈpɪkənɪni/ *n old-fash, now taboo* a small child of a black-skinned race

pic·co·lo /ˈpɪkələʊ/ *n* **-los** a small musical instrument of the WOODWIND family; small FLUTE

Piccadilly Circus



pick[1] /pɪk/ *v* [T] **1** to take (what one likes or considers best or most suitable) from among a group or number; choose: *The students have to pick three courses from a list of 15.* | *He was picked for the England team.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *She's been picked to head the planning committee.* | *You've really* **picked a winner** (=made a very good choice) *this time!* —see also PICK **out** (1) **2** [(**for**)] to pull or break off (part of a plant) from a tree or plant; gather: *They've gone fruit-picking today.* | *She picked some flowers from the garden.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *He picked her a rose.* **3** [(**from, out of**)] to take up or remove (something) separately or bit by bit using the fingers, a beak, a pointed instrument, etc.: *The vultures were picking the meat from the carcass.* | *picking bits of glass out of the carpet* | *The dog picked the bone clean.* (=removed all the meat from it) **4** to remove unwanted pieces from, esp. with a finger or a pointed instrument: *Don't pick your nose!* | *She was picking her teeth.* **5** to cause intentionally; PROVOKE: *He's so argumentative; he's always trying to* **pick quarrels/fights** *with people.* **6** to steal or take from, esp. in small amounts: *It's easy to* **have your pocket picked** *in a big crowd.* | (fig.) *I hear you're a mechanic; can I* **pick your brains** *about repairing my car?* (=make use of your knowledge) —see also PICKPOCKET **7** to unlock (a lock) with any instrument other than a key, esp. secretly and for an illegal purpose **8** *AmE for* PLUCK[1] (3) **9 pick and choose** *sometimes derog* to choose very carefully from a number of objects, possibilities, etc., taking only those one particularly likes or that are particularly good, etc. **10 pick holes in** to find fault with; find the weak points in: *It was easy to pick holes in his flimsy argument.* **11 pick one's way/steps** to walk carefully, choosing the places to put one's feet down: *After the explosion I picked my way through the rubble.* **12 pick someone/something to pieces** *infml* to examine the nature of a person or thing closely in order to find fault: *She's very polite to him when he's there, but picks him to pieces behind his back.* —see also **have (got) a bone to pick with someone** (BONE[1])

pick at sthg. *phr v* [T] to eat only in small quantities and with little effort or interest

pick sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] to shoot (people or animals) one by one, by taking careful aim

pick on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to choose for punishment, blame, or an unpleasant job, esp. repeatedly and unfairly: *Why are you always picking on me?* | *I'm tired of being picked on.*

pick sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to choose specially or carefully from among others: *She picked out a scarf to wear with the dress.* | *The witness picked out the wrong man in the identification parade.* **2** to see (someone or something) among others, esp. with difficulty; DISCERN: *Can you pick out your sister in this crowd?* **3** [*often pass.*] to make (something) clear to see: *The houses in the painting were picked out in white.* **4** to play (a tune) on a stringed musical instrument, usu. slowly or with difficulty

pick sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] *infml* to examine (too) carefully in order to choose the best or remove the unwanted: *He was picking over the tomatoes on the stall.*

pick up *phr v* **1** [T] (**pick** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **up**) to take hold of (esp. something small or light) and lift it up from a surface: *I picked up a magazine that was lying on the table.* | *She picked up a stone and threw it at the window.* **2** [T] (**pick** sthg. ↔ **up**) to gather together; collect: *Please pick up all your toys when you've finished playing.* | (fig.) *It was a bad setback, but we must* **pick up the pieces** *and start again.* | *Angrily, he broke off their engagement, but some months later they were able to* **pick up the threads** *of their relationship.* (=begin it again) **3** [T] (**pick** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to raise (oneself) after a fall or failure: *She picked herself up and started running again.* **4** [I;T (**pick** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to (cause to) start again: *Let's* **pick up where we left off.** | *We picked up the conversation after an interruption.* **5** [T] (**pick** sthg. ↔ **up**) to come to have; gain, buy, learn, etc.; ACQUIRE: *Where did you pick up that book|your English|that habit|such ideas?* | *The system looks difficult at first, but you'll soon pick it up.* (=begin to understand it) | *He picked up a bug* (=an illness) *while he was abroad.* **6** [T] (**pick** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up**) to collect; arrange to go and get: *Pick me up at the hotel.* | *I'm going to pick up my coat from the cleaner's.* **7** [T] (**pick** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to allow to enter a vehicle: *We picked up a hitchhiker.* **8** [T] (**pick** sbdy. ↔ **up**) *infml* to become friendly with after a short meeting, usu. with sexual intentions: *I didn't like him; he was just trying to pick me up.* **9** [T] (**pick** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to catch (a criminal); ARREST: *He was picked up by the police as he tried to leave the country.* **10** [T] (**pick** sthg. ↔ **up**) to be able to hear or receive: *We picked up radio signals for help from the damaged plane.* **11** [T] (**pick** sthg. ↔ **up**) to be prepared to pay: *The football club should* **pick up the bill/tab** *for the damage, since their fans are responsible for it.* **12** [T] (**pick** sthg. ↔ **up**) to cause to increase: *We* **picked up speed** *as we went downhill.* **13** [I] to improve; return to a former good state: *Trade is picking up again.* **14** [I;T (**pick** sbdy. ↔ **up**)] to (cause to) improve in health: *This tonic should pick you up.* —see also PICK-ME-UP, PICK-UP

pick up on sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to be sensitive to: *I was trying to indicate I didn't want to go, but they didn't pick up on it.* **2** to notice: *Did you pick up on those things that were crawling in her hair?* **3** to call attention to or begin speaking about (something already mentioned): *Now I'd like to pick up on your objections to funding the project through the summer.*

pick[2] *n* **1** [U] choice: *Which one do you want —* **take your pick!** (=choose whichever one you want) | *She could have had her pick of all the eligible young men.* **2** [*the*+S+**of**] the best (of many): *It's the pick of this month's new films.* | *It's not much good, but it's the* **pick of the bunch.**

pick[3] *n* **1** (*usu. in comb.*) a sharp-pointed usu. small instrument —see also ICE PICK, TOOTHPICK **2** *infml* a pickaxe **3** *AmE or infml for* PLECTRUM

pick·axe *BrE*‖**pickax** *AmE* /ˈpɪk-æks/ also **pick** *infml*— a large tool with a wooden handle fitted into a curved iron bar with two sharp points, used for breaking up roads, rock, etc. —see picture at AXE

picked /pɪkt/ *adj* [A] *often apprec* chosen as very suitable for a special purpose: *The assault group consisted of six picked men.* —see also HANDPICKED

pick·er /ˈpɪkəʳ/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a person or instrument that picks things, esp. crops: *The cotton pickers want more money.*

pick·et[1] /ˈpɪkɨt/ *n* **1** someone placed, esp. by a trade union, at the entrance to a factory, shop, etc., to prevent anyone, esp. other workers, from going in until a quarrel with the employers is over. The number of pickets allowed in one place is limited by law in Britain: *The pickets persuaded the truck driver not to enter the factory.* —see also FLYING PICKET **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] a group or line of pickets: *The union placed a large picket at the factory gates.* | *Don't* **cross the picket line!** | *There were over a hundred men* **on the picket line** *this morning.* **3** a soldier with the special job of guarding a camp: *on picket duty* **4** [+*sing./pl. v*] a small group of such soldiers **5** [*often pl.*] a strong pointed stick fixed into the ground, esp. used with others to make a fence (**picket fence**)

picket[2] *v* **1** [T] to surround as PICKETS[1] (1) and stop the work or activity of: *The men picketed the factory|picketed all the people who wanted to go inside to work.* **2** [I] to act as a picket: *picketing miners* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to place (soldiers) in position as PICKETS[1] (3)

Pick·ford's /ˈpɪkfədz‖-fərdz/ a company which stores people's furniture and moves belongings for people who are moving to a new house

pick·ings /ˈpɪkɪŋz/ *n* [P] *infml* additional money or profits taken dishonestly or regarded as a right: *There are some* **easy/rich pickings** *to be made in this job.*

pick·le[1] /ˈpɪkəl/ *n* **1** [U] a liquid, esp. VINEGAR or salt water, used to preserve vegetables or sometimes meat **2** [U] *esp. BrE* a substance eaten with food, esp. cold food, consisting of pieces of vegetable preserved in this: *sweet pickle* (=with added sugar) | *cheese and pickle sandwiches* **3** [C] *AmE* a vegetable, esp. a CUCUMBER, preserved in this **4** [S] *infml* a difficult or confused condition; MESS: *You are* **in a (pretty) pickle,** *aren't you! Let me help you out.* **5** [C] *BrE infml* a child who playfully does bad but not very harmful things

pickle[2] *v* [T] to preserve (food) in pickle: *pickled onions*

pick·led /ˈpɪkəld/ *adj* [F] *infml* drunk

pick-me-up /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n infml* something, esp. a drink or medicine, that makes one feel stronger and more cheerful –see also PICK **up** (14)

pick·pock·et /ˈpɪkˌpɒkɨt‖-ˌpɑːk-/ *n* a person who steals things from people's pockets, esp. in a crowd

pick-up /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** the part of a record player, esp. the needle and arm, which receives and plays the sound from a record **2** also **pick-up truck** /ˈ· · ˌ·/– a light VAN having an open body with low sides –see picture at TRUCK and at VAN **3** *infml* a person, esp. a woman, who is picked up (PICK **up** (8)) **4** [U] *AmE* rate of increasing speed; ACCELERATION: *a car with good pick-up*

Pick·wick /ˈpɪkwɪk/, **Mr Sam·u·el** /ˈsæmjuəl/ the chief character in the **Pickwick Papers**, a story by Charles Dickens. Pickwick is kind and good-tempered and thinks well of everyone. He is sometimes thought of as a typical Victorian English gentleman.

Pickwick Pa·pers /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a book written in 1836–37 by Charles Dickens about the members of the Pickwick Club. They were Samuel Pickwick, Tracy Tupman, Augustus Snodgrass, and Nathaniel Winkle and the book is about their adventures.

pick·y /ˈpɪki/ *adj derog, esp. AmE for* CHOOSY: *She's such a picky eater.* –**-iness** *n* [U]

pic·nic[1] /ˈpɪknɪk/ *n* **1** [C] **a** an occasion when food, usu. cold food, is taken to be eaten somewhere outdoors, esp. in the country: *They went on/for a picnic.* | *a picnic lunch* **b** *BrE* the food taken: *What a delicious picnic!* **2** [S *usu. in negatives*] *infml* something especially easy or pleasant to do: *It's no picnic having to look after six small children all day, you know!*

picnic[2] *v* **-ck-** [I] to go on or have a picnic – ~**ker** *n*

picnic ar·e·a /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* an area near a road, with space to park cars, and tables where motorists can sit and have picnics

picnic bas·ket /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **picnic hamper**– *n* a strong basket used to carry food etc. for a picnic, esp. one that contains its own special plates, cups, knives, etc.

picnic ta·ble /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a table used to have a picnic on, esp. one built near a road in the country and used by motorists

Pict /pɪkt/ *n* one of the group of people who lived in north and central Scotland from the 3rd to the 9th century and who often fought against the English

pic·to·ri·al /pɪkˈtɔːriəl/ *adj* having, or expressed in, PICTURES[1] (1,2): *pictorial magazines* | *a pictorial record of the event* –-~**ly** *adv*

pic·ture[1] /ˈpɪktʃəʳ/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a painting or drawing: *Draw a picture of that tree/those children.* | *She painted a picture of the church.* | *Where shall I hang this picture?* | *You look* **as pretty as a picture** (=very pretty) *in that dress.* –compare PORTRAIT and see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** [C (**of**)] a photograph: *He took her picture/took a picture of her.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] what is seen on a television or cinema SCREEN: *You can't get a clear picture on this TV set.* **4** [C] *esp. BrE* a cinema film –see also PICTURES **5** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] an image in the mind, esp. an exact one produced by a skilful description: *This book gives a vivid picture of life in England 200 years ago.* | *He painted a grim picture of the company's financial problems.* **6** [S] a situation: *The present political picture gives much cause for anxiety.* | *We'll fool him; you come in five minutes after me* – **get the picture?** (=do you understand?) **7** [*the*+S+**of**] the perfect example: *That baby is the picture of health.* (=looks very healthy) **8** [S] a person or thing that is beautiful or unusual to look at: *This garden is a picture in the summer.* | *His face was a picture when we told him!* **9 in/out of the picture** *infml* **a** in/not in the position of knowing all the facts: *I haven't heard about the latest developments; perhaps you could put me in the picture.* **b** receiving/not receiving one's share of attention: *She always wants to be in the picture.* **10 picture in the attic** in the book *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, a way of talking about the picture in the title –see PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

picture[2] *v* [T] **1** to imagine: *Just picture the scene – it must have been a terrible experience.* | *I can't quite picture myself as a father.* [+*wh-*] *Can't you picture how she must feel?* **2** [+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to paint or draw; make a picture of: *The artist has pictured him as a young man in riding dress.* –compare DEPICT

picture book /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a book for young children, made up mostly of pictures

picture card /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a COURT CARD (‖FACE CARD)

Picture of Do·ri·an Gray /ˌpɪktʃər əv ˌdɔːriən ˈgreɪ/, **The** a story by Oscar Wilde about a young, attractive man who has a picture of himself that he keeps in a room at the top of his house. As he gets older, he becomes an evil and immoral person, but his own face does not change with age. Instead, the picture of him changes to show how old and unpleasant he has become.

picture post·card /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n fml for* POSTCARD (2)

picture-postcard /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] very pretty; picturesque: *a picture-postcard village*

picture rail /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a long, narrow piece of wood, plastic, etc. fixed to the upper part of living-room walls in older houses, for hanging pictures from

pic·tures /ˈpɪktʃəz‖-ərz/ *BrE* ‖ **movies** *esp. AmE– n infml* **1** [*the*+P] *old-fash* the cinema: *Are you going to the pictures tonight?* **2** [P] the business of producing or acting in cinema films: *He's in pictures.*

pic·tur·esque /ˌpɪktʃəˈresk◂/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a place) charming and interesting enough to be made into a picture: *a picturesque scene/village* **2** (of a person or their manner, clothes, etc.) rather strange and unusual: *He was a picturesque figure with his long beard and strange old clothes.* **3** *often euph* (of language) unusually clear, strong, and descriptive – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

picture win·dow /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a large window made of a single piece of glass, usu. placed so that it looks out over an attractive view

pid·dle /ˈpɪdl/ *v* [I] *infml* **1** *BrE for* URINATE **2** *AmE* to waste time; DAWDLE –**piddle** *n* [U]

pid·dling /ˈpɪdlɪŋ/ *adj derog* small and unimportant: *piddling details*

pid·gin /ˈpɪdʒɨn/ *n* [C;U] a language which is a mixture of two or more other languages, esp. as used between people who do not speak each other's language: *pidgin English* –compare CREOLE (1), LINGUA FRANCA

pie /paɪ/ *n* [C;U] **1** (*often in comb.*) a pastry case, esp. a round one, filled with meat or fruit and covered with pastry, baked in a deep dish (**pie dish**): *a cherry pie* | *a meat pie.* –compare TART[1] (1) **2 pie in the sky** *infml* a hopeful plan or suggestion that has not been, or has little chance of being, put into effect –see also APPLE PIE, CUSTARD PIE, MUD PIE, PIE CHART, **as easy as pie** (EASY[1]), **have a finger in every pie** (FINGER[1])

▷ USAGE In British English a **pie** usually has a pastry cover; if there is no cover it is called a **tart** (if it is filled with fruit) or a **flan.** In American English a **pie** may or may not have a cover.◁

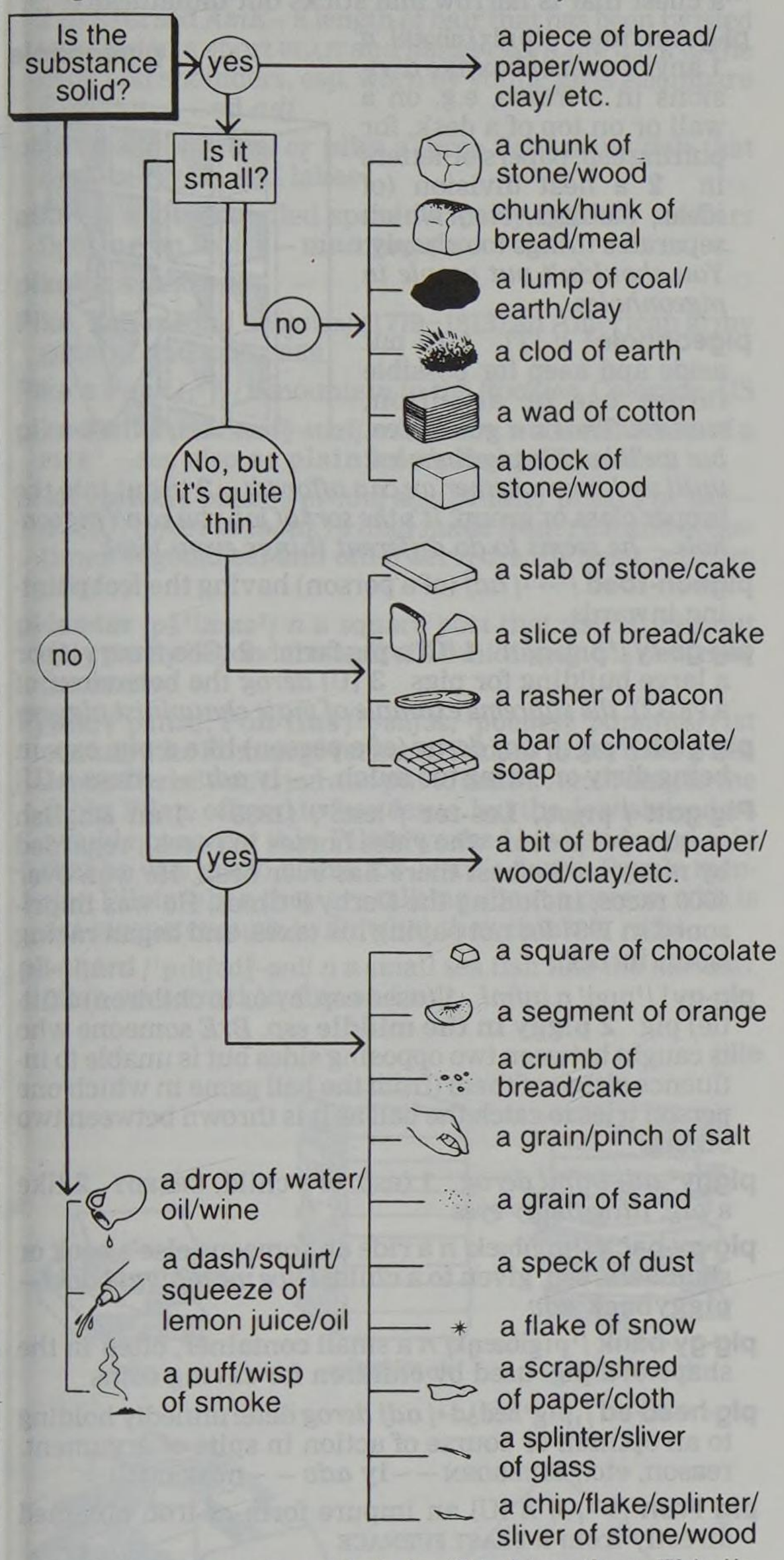
pie and mash /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] *BrE* (a serving of) a small PIE (=meat covered with pastry) served with mashed (MASH[1]) potatoes, typically served in cheap restaurants

pie·bald /ˈpaɪbɔːld/ *n, adj* (a horse) coloured with large black and white PATCHes –compare SKEWBALD

piece[1] /piːs/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a bit, such as: **a** a part of anything solid which is separated, broken, or marked off from a larger part or a whole body: *a piece of chalk/sellotape/string/cake* | *pieces of broken glass* **b** a single object that is an example of a kind or class, or that forms part of a set: *a piece of paper* (=a whole sheet) | *a piece of furniture* (=a chair, bed, table, etc.) | *a piece of sculpture* (=a STATUE, etc.) | *a piece of music* (=a song, SYMPHONY, etc.) | (fig.) *Let me give you a piece of* (=some) *advice.* **2** [C] **a**

piece

There are many words available to talk about a piece of something in English. The table below shows some of them and gives an idea of which substance they can refer to.



any of many parts made to be fitted together: *This jigsaw had 2000 pieces, but some are missing.* | *This chair* **comes to pieces.** (=can be taken apart) | *I'm going to* **take** *the engine* **to pieces** (=separate it into parts) *to see what's wrong with it.* | *It just* **fell to pieces** *in my hands.* (=came apart) **b** (*usu. in comb.*) an object or person forming part of a set: *a 36-piece dinner service* | *an 80-piece orchestra* (=one with 80 players or instruments) **3** [C] any of a set of small round objects or figures used in playing certain board games, esp. CHESS: *Which piece moves diagonally?* **4** [C] something whole and complete made by an ARTIST or other skilful person: *This is one of Rodin's finest pieces.* (=STATUES) | *This piece* (=of music) *should be played very slowly.* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] a short written statement in a newspaper, magazine, etc.: *Did you see the piece in the paper about Mrs Smith's accident?* **6** [C] a coin, esp. of the stated value: *a 50-penny piece* | *a ten-cent piece* | *30 pieces of silver* **7** [(*the*) S] an amount of work (to be) done: *We pay our workers by the piece here, not by the time they take to do the work.* —see also PIECEWORK **8 (all) in one piece** *infml* **a** (of a thing) undamaged; still whole **b** (of a person) unharmed, esp. after an accident: *She was lucky to survive the crash all in one piece.* **9 give someone a piece of one's mind** *infml* to tell someone angrily what one thinks of them: *I'm going to give that little rascal a piece of my mind when I catch him!* **10 go (all) to pieces** *infml* to lose the ability to think or act clearly because of fear, sorrow, etc.: *Under the pressure of police questioning she went to pieces and confessed everything.* **11 of a piece: a** like each other in character: *They're all of a piece.* **b** in agreement: *His action is of a piece with what he has been saying he will do for the past few months.* **12 piece by piece** one by one; one part at a time **13 pull someone/something to pieces** to say or show that someone/something is worthless by pointing at the weak points or faults: *The committee pulled my proposal to pieces.* **14 say one's piece** to say what one wants to or has planned to say, esp. in a way that is annoying or unwelcome to others: *I've said my piece, so I'll be going now.* —see also MUSEUM PIECE, PARTY PIECE, SET PIECE, **the villain of the piece** (VILLAIN)

piece[2] *v*

piece sthg. ↔ **together** *phr v* [T] to make (something, esp. a story or an account of events) complete by gradually finding all the parts and adding them to each other: *The detectives tried to piece together the facts.*

pi·èce de ré·sis·tance /piːˌes də reziːˈstɑːns/ *n* **pièces de résistance** (*same pronunciation*) *Fr* the best or most important thing or event among a number, esp. one that comes or is shown after all the others

piece·meal /ˈpiːsmiːl/ *adj, adv* (done, made, etc.) bit by bit; only one part at a time: *The college buildings were put together piecemeal.*

piece of cake /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [S] *infml* something very easy to do: *That exam was a piece of cake!*

piece of eight /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] (esp. in stories) a silver coin formerly used in Spain. In humorous stories about PIRATES, the pirate often has a PARROT on his shoulder who says "pieces of eight" repeatedly.

piece of work /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **1** something made or done, esp. of the stated quality: *This watch is a fine piece of work.* **2** *infml* someone who is disliked or disapproved of in the stated way: *Look out for him; he's a nasty piece of work.*

piece rate /ˈ· ·/ *n* a fixed amount of money paid for each thing that a worker produces: *dressmakers working on a piece rate*

piece·work /ˈpiːswɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] work paid for by the amount done rather than by the hours worked

pie chart /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a circle divided into several parts that shows the way in which something, such as a population or an amount of money, is divided up: *The students drew up a pie chart of government spending|the racial composition of their school|the uses of local land.* —see picture at CHART

pie·crust /ˈpaɪ-krʌst/ *n* [C;U] the baked pastry of a PIE

pied /paɪd/ *adj* [A] (esp. of certain types of bird) irregularly coloured with two or more colours, esp. black and white: *a pied wagtail*

pied-à-terre /ˌpjeɪd æ ˈteəʳ‖piˌed ɑː ˈteər/ *n* **pieds-à-terre** (*same pronunciation*) *Fr* a small set of rooms or second home which one keeps for use when needed: *They live in the country but they've got a pied-à-terre in London.*

the Pied Piper



Pied Pip·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** [*the*] the main character in an old fairy story about a man who freed the town of Hamelin in Germany from rats by playing his FLUTE and making the rats follow him to the river and drown. When he was not paid for this job, the Pied Piper led away all the town's children too. **2** a person who attracts followers: *a great leader, a Pied Piper of politics*

pie-eyed /ˌpaɪ ˈaɪd◂/ *adj infml, usu. humor* drunk

pier /pɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a bridgelike structure of wood, metal, etc., built out into the sea at places where people go for

holidays, with small buildings on it where people can eat and amuse themselves: *Brighton pier | a variety show on the end of the pier* –compare BOARDWALK **2** a similar structure at which boats can stop to take in or land their passengers or goods, usu. larger than a JETTY **3** a thick post of stone, wood, metal, etc., esp. as used to support a bridge or the roof of a high building

pierce /pɪəs‖pɪərs/ *v* [T] *rather fml* **1** to make a hole in or through (something) with a point: *The nurse pierced the skin covering his vein with the syringe and injected the medicine. | Many women have got* **pierced ears.** (=holes made in their ears for EARRINGS) | (fig.) *He couldn't pierce* (=find a way through) *her unfriendly manner.* **2** (of light, sound, pain, etc.) to be suddenly seen, heard, or felt in or through (someone or something): *The first shafts of sunlight pierced the gloom. | A sudden scream pierced the silence.* –compare PENETRATE

Pierce, Franklin (1804–69) the 14th president of the US (1853–57)

pierc·ing /ˈpɪəsɪŋ‖ˈpɪər-/ *adj* **1** (of wind) very strong and cold; BITING **2** (of sound) very sharp and clear, esp. in an unpleasant way: *A piercing cry rang out across the moor. | a very piercing voice* **3** going straight to the centre or the main point; PENETRATING: *a piercing look|question | piercing blue eyes* – **~ly** *adv*

Pier·rot /ˈpɪərəʊ/ a silent PANTOMIME character, usu. a fool or musician with a sad white face and loose, white, fancy clothes

Piers Plow·man /ˌpɪəz ˈplaʊmən‖ˌpɪərz-/ a religious poem written in Middle English by William Langland (1330?–86)

pi·e·ty /ˈpaɪəti/ also **piousness**– *n* [U] *fml* the showing and feeling of deep respect for God and religion –opposite **impiety**; see also PIOUS

pie·zo·e·lec·tric /ˌpiːzəʊ-ɪˈlektrɪk◂, ˌpiːtsəʊ-‖piˌeɪzəʊ-/ *adj* worked by electricity produced by pressure on a small piece of a certain type of stone (CRYSTAL): *a piezoelectric cigarette lighter*

pif·fle /ˈpɪfəl/ *n* [U] *BrE infml, old-fash* foolish talk; nonsense

pif·fling /ˈpɪflɪŋ/ *adj BrE infml* useless; meaningless; TRIVIAL: *some piffling excuse or other*

pig[1] /pɪg/ *n* **1** ‖ also **hog** *AmE*– a fat short-legged animal with a usu. curly tail and thick skin with short stiff hairs, often kept on farms for its meat. Pigs are usu. thought to be GREEDY, dirty, and noisy. –see also GUINEA PIG; see MEAT (USAGE) **2** *infml derog* **a** an unpleasant person, esp. one who eats too much, behaves in an offensive way, or refuses to consider others: *You greedy pig! | He* **made a (real) pig of himself** *at the restaurant.* **b** something difficult or nasty: *This passage is a real pig to translate.* **3** *derog sl* a policeman **4 a pig in a poke** *infml* something one has bought without seeing or examining it, and that one may then find to be worthless **5 make a pig's ear of** *infml, esp. BrE* to do something awkwardly or wrongly: *I'd been practising the speech for days, but I made a real pig's ear of it anyway.* **6 Pigs might fly‖If pigs could fly we could shoot for bacon!** *esp. humor* What you have just said is not possible: *"The management might offer us a decent pay rise." "Pigs might fly!"* **7 This little piggy went to market** the first line of an old poem for children, said while counting the child's toes

pig[2] *v* **-gg-** [I;T] to eat (food) greedily (GREEDY): *He's pigged all the cake! | We pigged ourselves on|with ice cream and jelly.*

pig out *phr v* [I (**on**)] *sl, esp. AmE* to eat food greedily (GREEDY) and in large amounts; gorge oneself (GORGE[2]): *We really pigged out last night. I feel sick!*

pi·geon /ˈpɪdʒ‿ən/ *n* **pigeons** *or* **pigeon** **1** [C] a fairly large grey short-legged bird

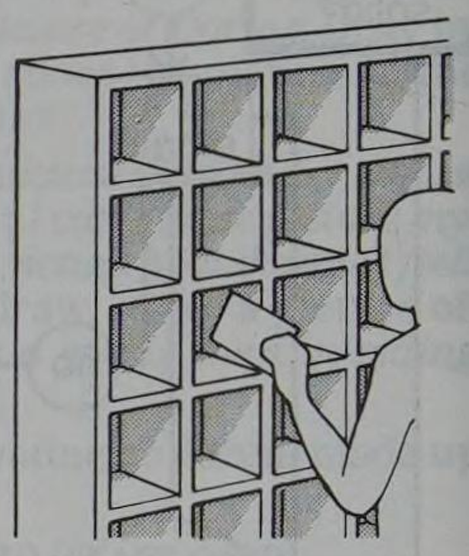
►CULTURAL NOTE Trafalgar Square in London is known as a place where people go to feed the pigeons, but they are generally disliked because of the mess they make. Farmers dislike them because of the amount of corn they eat, and in the country they are often shot and eaten. A tame pigeon that is taken away from its home will always fly back, and some people race them against each other to see which bird gets home first.◄

2 [S] *BrE infml* someone's responsibility or affair: *It's not my pigeon – someone else can deal with it.* –see also CARRIER PIGEON, CLAY PIGEON, **put/set the cat among the pigeons** (CAT), and see picture at BIRD

pigeon-chest·ed /ˌ·· ˈ··◂‖ˈ·· ˌ··/ *adj* (of a person) having a chest that is narrow and sticks out unnaturally

pi·geon·hole[1] /ˈpɪdʒ‿ənhəʊl/ *n* **1** any of a set of boxlike divisions in a frame, e.g. on a wall or on top of a desk, for putting esp. papers or letters in **2** a neat division (of ideas, feelings, etc.) which separates things too simply: *You shouldn't put people in pigeonholes.*

pigeonhole



pigeon·hole[2] *v* [T] **1** to put aside and keep for possible future use or attention; SHELVE: *That's a good idea, but we'll have to pigeonhole it until we know whether we can afford it.* **2** to put into the proper class or group: *It's the sort of job you can't pigeonhole – he seems to do different things every week.*

pigeon-toed /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* (of a person) having the feet pointing inwards

pig·ge·ry /ˈpɪgəri/ *n* **1** [C] a pig farm **2** [C] a PIGSTY (1) or a large building for pigs **3** [U] *derog* the behaviour of a PIG (2): *the supreme example of male chauvinist piggery*

pig·gish /ˈpɪgɪʃ/ *adj derog* (of a person) like a pig, esp. in being dirty or eating too much – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

Pig·gott /ˈpɪgət/, **Les·ter** /ˈlestəʳ/ (1935–) an English JOCKEY (=a person who rides horses in races), regarded by many as the best there has ever been. He won over 4000 races, including the Derby 8 times. He was imprisoned in 1987 for not paying his taxes, and began racing again in 1990.

pig·gy[1] /ˈpɪgi/ *n infml* **1** (used esp. by or to children) a (little) pig **2 piggy in the middle** *esp. BrE* someone who is caught between two opposing sides but is unable to influence either of them (from the ball game in which one person tries to catch the ball as it is thrown between two others)

piggy[2] *adj infml derog* **1** (esp. of a child) GREEDY **2** like a pig: *little piggy eyes*

pig·gy·back /ˈpɪgibæk/ *n* a ride on someone else's back or shoulders, esp. given to a child: *Give me a piggyback!* – **piggyback** *adv*

pig·gy·bank /ˈpɪgibæŋk/ *n* a small container, often in the shape of a pig, used by children for saving coins

pig·head·ed /ˌpɪgˈhedɪd◂/ *adj derog* determinedly holding to an opinion or course of action in spite of argument, reason, etc.; STUBBORN – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

pig iron /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] an impure form of iron obtained directly from a BLAST FURNACE

pig·let /ˈpɪglɪt/ *n* a young pig

Piglet a loyal friend of Pooh Bear in stories by A. A. Milne. Piglet looks a little like a small pig, but he walks on two legs and has no tail.

pig·ment /ˈpɪgmənt/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) dry coloured powder that is mixed with oil, water, etc., to make paint **2** [U] natural colouring matter of plants and animals, such as in leaves, hair, skin, etc.

pig·men·ta·tion /ˌpɪgmənˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the spreading of colouring matter in parts of living things **2** the colouring of living things

pig·my /ˈpɪgmi/ *n* a PYGMY

pig·pen /ˈpɪgpen/ *n AmE* for PIGSTY

Pigpen *n* a character in the Peanuts COMIC STRIP, who is very dirty and always has a cloud of dirt all around him

Pigs, Bay of *n* see BAY OF PIGS

pig·skin /ˈpɪgˌskɪn/ *n* [U] leather made from pig's skin: *a pigskin bag*

pig's trot·ters /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [P] pigs' feet, cooked and eaten as food

pig·sty /ˈpɪgstaɪ/ also **pig·pen** *esp. AmE*– *n* **1** also **sty**– an enclosure with a small building in it, where pigs are kept **2** *derog* a very dirty room or house, esp. that is also in bad repair: *How can you live in this pigsty?*

pig·swill /ˈpɪgˌswɪl/ *n* [U] **1** waste food, such as vegetable

skins, given to pigs **2** *derog* tasteless or bad-tasting food

pig·tail /ˈpɪgteɪl/ *n* **1** one of two bunches of hair worn on either side of the face, either plaited (PLAIT²) or loose, esp. by young girls: *a little girl with her hair in pigtails.* **2** *BrE*‖**braid** *AmE*– a length of hair that has been twisted together in a short PLAIT and hangs down the back of the neck and shoulders, esp. worn by young girls –compare PONYTAIL – ~**ed** *adj*

pike¹ /paɪk/ *n* **pikes** *or* **pike** a large fish-eating fish that lives in rivers and lakes

pike² *n* a long-handled spear formerly used by soldiers fighting on foot – ~**man** /mən/ *n*

pike³ *n* a TURNPIKE

Pike, Zeb·u·lon /ˈzebjʊlən/ (1779–1813) an American army general and EXPLORER

Pike's Peak /ˌ· ˈ·/ a mountain in the Rockies, Colorado, US

pike·staff /ˈpaɪkstɑːf‖-stæf/ *n* the long wooden handle of a PIKE² –see also **as plain as a pikestaff** (PLAIN¹)

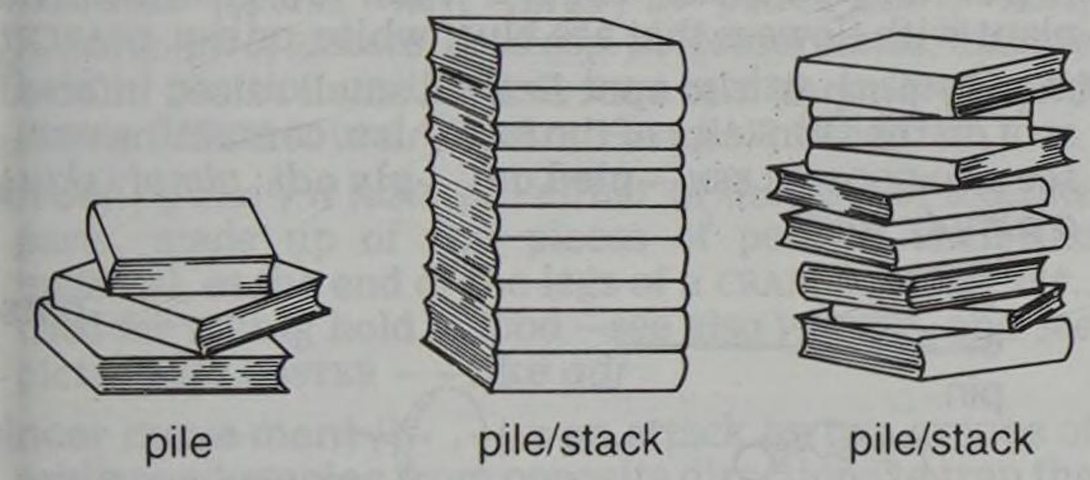
pi·laf , pilaff /ˈpiːlæf ‖ pɪˈlɑːf/ also **pi·lau** /ˈpiːlaʊ ‖ pɪˈlaʊ/– *n* [C;U] (*often in comb.*) a dish made from rice and sometimes vegetables, and often served with meat: *chicken pilaf*

pi·las·ter /pɪˈlæstəʳ/ *n* a square post that usu. sticks out only partly beyond the wall of a building and is usu. only decorative

Pi·late /ˈpaɪlət/, **Pon·tius** /ˈpɒnʃəs, ˈpɒntiəs‖ˈpɑːntʃiəs/ (1st century) the Roman governor of Judaea at the time when Jesus Christ was tried and put to death. According to the Bible, Pilate offered to free Jesus, but the Jewish leaders would not accept this. Pilate washed his hands and said that he was not to blame for Jesus's death. People mention Pilate when they are talking about a person who is not strong enough to do what they think is right.

pil·chard /ˈpɪltʃəd‖-ərd/ *n* a small sea fish like the HERRING, often preserved in tins as food

pile



pile¹ /paɪl/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a tidy collection of objects, esp. when made of a number of things of the same kind placed on top of each other: *a pile of books|plates | We put the newspapers in piles on the floor.* –see USAGE **2** a PYRE **3** [(**of**)] also **piles** *pl.*– *infml* a lot: *I've got piles of work to do today.* **4** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a very large amount of money; fortune: *He* **made a/his pile** *and retired to the Bahamas.* **5** *pomp* a large tall building or group of buildings: *They live in a rambling Victorian pile.* –see also PILES, ATOMIC PILE

▷ USAGE Compare **pile, stack,** and **heap,** which can all mean "a mass of things placed one on top of the other". A **pile** is a usually tidy collection of objects, usually of the same kind: *a pile of books|papers|leaves.* A **stack** is a carefully arranged **pile** usually made up of a lot of things of the same shape and size: *a* **stack** *of books|coins|cassettes.* A **heap** is a large disorderly **pile** of things, not necessarily of the same kind: *a* **heap** *of toys|books|dirty washing.* Both **pile** and **heap** can also be used with uncountable nouns: *a* **pile/heap** *of sand|straw|manure.*◁

pile² *v* **1** [T (**on,** UP)] to make a pile of: *He piled the boxes one on top of the other. | The little boy was piling up his building blocks.* **2** [T (**onto, with**)] to fill or cover plentifully; load: *He piled the spaghetti onto his plate. | The cart was piled high with fruit and vegetables.* **3** [I+*adv|prep*] *infml* (of people) to come or go in a (disorderly) crowd: *He opened the doors and they all piled in. | The boat arrived and hordes of children piled off.*

pile on *phr v infml* **1 pile it on** to say too much; EXAGGERATE: *She was trying to impress the interviewer, so she really piled it on. | Giving someone a compliment is one thing, but you were piling it on!* **2 pile on the agony** to enjoy making something seem worse than it really is

pile up *phr v* [I] **1** to form into a mass or large quantity; ACCUMULATE: *My work is piling up. | The clouds are piling up.* **2** (of a number of vehicles) to crash into each other –see also PILEUP

pile³ *n* [C;U] the soft surface of short threads on CARPETS and some cloths, esp. VELVET: *a deep pile carpet* – compare NAP³

pile⁴ *n* a heavy wooden, metal, or CONCRETE post hammered upright into the ground as a support for a building, bridge, etc.

pile driv·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* **1** a machine for hammering PILES⁴ into the ground **2** *infml* a very hard blow (PUNCH), esp. in BOXING

piles /paɪlz/ *n* [P] *infml for* HAEMORRHOIDS. Piles are often treated by non-sufferers as a rather humorous complaint.

pile·up /ˈpaɪlʌp/ *n infml* a traffic accident in which a number of vehicles crash into each other: *a bad pileup on the motorway* –see also PILE² **up** (2)

pil·fer /ˈpɪlfəʳ/ *v* [I;T] to steal (small amounts or things of little value): *He was found pilfering from other children's desks. | Petty pilfering is on the increase in department stores.* – ~**er** *n*

pil·grim /ˈpɪlgrɨm/ *n* a person who travels esp. a long way to a holy place as an act of religious love and respect

pil·grim·age /ˈpɪlgrɨmɪdʒ/ *n* [C;U (**to**)] (a) journey made by a pilgrim: *Aziz is planning to* **go on/make a pilgrimage** *to Mecca.* | (fig.) *Many music-lovers make pilgrimages to Mozart's birthplace.*

Pilgrim Fa·thers /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Pilgrims**– [*the*+P] the group of English PURITANS who sailed to America to escape from England and make a new kind of society based on their religious beliefs. They arrived on their ship *Mayflower* at Plymouth, Massachusetts, US in 1620 – compare FOUNDING FATHER and see colour picture on page 1015

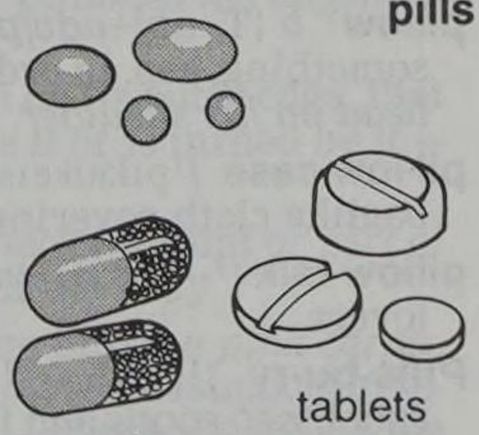
Pilgrim's Pro·gress /ˌ·· ˈ··/, **The** a book by the 17th century English writer John Bunyan. It is an ALLEGORY of the difficult journey of the human soul through life to Heaven. The main character, Christian, leaves his family and travels through the **Slough of Despond**, the **Valley of the Shadow of Death**, **Vanity Fair**, the land of **Beulah**, etc. meeting many dangers, until he reaches the **Celestial City**. Later his wife and children follow him.

Pilgrim's Way /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] the name of an old path from Winchester to Canterbury, which religious PILGRIMS travelled along in the past

Pil·king·ton /ˈpɪlkɪŋtən/ a British company which specializes in glass products

pill /pɪl/ *n* **1** [C] a small solid piece of medicine, made to be swallowed whole: *to take* (=swallow) *a sleeping pill* – see also **a bitter pill (to swallow)** (BITTER), MORNING-AFTER PILL, **sugar the pill** (SUGAR²) **2** [*the*+S] (*often cap.*) a pill taken regularly, usu. every day, by women as a means of birth control: *Is she* **on the pill**? (=taking the pill) | *She went on|came off the pill on her doctor's advice.*

pills



▶ CULTURAL NOTE The Pill was the first method of CONTRACEPTION that was simple, reliable, and not difficult to use. Although there have been health problems associated with taking the Pill, and some women cannot use it at all, it is the most popular method in most Western countries. Because its use is controlled by the woman herself, making her able to choose when, or whether, to have children,

it has helped to change women's attitude to themselves and their place in the world, e.g. by enabling a woman to delay having children until she is established in a career. It has also increased the freedom of unmarried people to have sex, and some people blame the Pill for what they regard as the evils of the PERMISSIVE SOCIETY.◀

pil·lage[1] /ˈpɪlɪdʒ/ *n* [U] *old use* the act of pillaging

pillage[2] *v* [I;T] *old use* to steal things violently from (a place taken in war); PLUNDER: *The Vikings raped and pillaged all along the coast.* —compare LOOT —**-lager** *n*

pil·lar /ˈpɪlə^{r}/ *n* **1** a tall upright round post made usu. of stone **a** used as a support for a roof: *the graceful pillars of the Roman Forum* **b** standing alone in memory of some person or event **2** [(**of**)] something tall, narrow, and upright: *a pillar of smoke* **3** [(**of**)] *apprec* an important member and active supporter: *a pillar of the community/church* **4 (be driven) from pillar to post** (to be chased or hunted) from one place or difficulty to another —compare COLUMN[1]

pillar box /ˈ·· ·/ *n* (in Britain) a large tube-shaped type of POSTBOX that stands in the street and is usu. painted red —compare LETTERBOX, POST[2] (3)

pillar of salt /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* **pillars of salt** a rock-like upright piece of salt. In the Bible, Lot's wife is said to have become a pillar of salt after she disobeyed advice and looked back on the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Pillars of Her·cu·les /ˌ·· · ˈ···/ [*the* +P] the two pieces of high land coming out into the water on either side of the Strait of Gibraltar which in former times marked the end of the civilized world at the western end of the Mediterranean and which, in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, were separated by Hercules

pill·box /ˈpɪlbɒks‖-bɑːks/ *n* **1** a small round box for holding PILLS (1) **2** a small usu. circular CONCRETE shelter with a gun inside it, built as a defence esp. along a shore

pil·lion /ˈpɪljən/ *n* a seat for a second person on a motorcycle, placed behind the driver: *a pillion passenger* | *He was* **riding pillion.** (=on the pillion)

pil·lock /ˈpɪlək/ *n BrE sl* a foolish worthless person

pil·lo·ry[1] /ˈpɪlərɪ/ *n* a wooden post with a bar at the top into which in former times the neck and wrists of wrongdoers were locked as a public punishment —compare STOCKS (1)

pillory



pillory[2] *v* [T] **1** to attack with words, esp. so as to cause to be treated with disrespect by the public: *The education secretary was pilloried in the press for his ridiculous decision.* **2** to punish by putting in a pillory

pil·low[1] /ˈpɪləʊ/ *n* **1** a cloth bag, usu. longer than it is wide, filled with a soft substance such as feathers and used for supporting the head in bed: *The children were having a marvellous* **pillow fight.** (=hitting each other with pillows) —compare CUSHION[1] (1) **2** any object used for supporting the head, esp. while sleeping: *She used her saddlebag as a pillow.* —see also PILLOW TALK

pillow[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to rest (esp. one's head) on something, esp. in order to go to sleep: *She pillowed her head on his shoulder.*

pil·low·case /ˈpɪləʊkeɪs/ also **pillow slip** /ˈ·· ·/— *n* a baglike cloth covering for a pillow

pillow talk /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] *infml* conversation in bed between lovers

Pills·bu·ry /ˈpɪlzbərɪ‖-berɪ/ an American maker of PROCESSED FOODS and flour. Their advertising personality is a small man made of DOUGH, called the **Pillsbury Doughboy**.

pi·lot[1] /ˈpaɪlət/ *n* **1** a person who controls an aircraft or spacecraft, esp. one who has been specially trained: *an airline pilot* **2** a person with a special knowledge of a particular stretch of water, esp. the entrance to a HARBOUR, who is employed to go on board and guide ships that use it: *a harbour pilot* **3** a television programme which is made to see if people like it and whether they would watch such a programme regularly if it were on every week —see also AUTOMATIC PILOT, **drop the pilot** (DROP[1])

pilot[2] *v* [T] **1** to act as pilot of (an aircraft, spacecraft, or ship) —see BOAT (USAGE), DRIVE (USAGE), PLANE (USAGE) **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **through**] to help and guide; show the way: *She piloted the old man through the crowd to his seat.* | (fig.) *The minister has piloted several useful bills through Parliament.* (=made sure they came successfully through and were made into laws)

pilot[3] *adj* [A] acting as a trial for something: *We're doing a pilot survey on this product; if it sells well, we'll go into full production.* | *a pilot scheme*

pilot light /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** also **pilot burn·er** /ˈ·· ˌ··/— a small gas flame kept burning all the time, used for lighting larger gas burners when the gas in them is turned on **2** a small electric light on a piece of electrical apparatus that shows when it is turned on

pilot of·fi·cer /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* an airforce rank —see TABLE 3

Pilt·down Man /ˌpɪltdaʊn ˈmæn/ a supposed race of early people, bones of whom were thought to have been found in England in 1912. Later tests proved that the bones were not old and it was decided that Piltdown Man never existed.

Pi·ma /ˈpiːmə/ *n* [C; *the* + P] (a member of) a Native American people living in Arizona, US —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

pi·men·to /pɪˈmentəʊ/ *n* **-tos** *or* **-to** [C;U] a small PEPPER[1] (2), often used for putting inside OLIVES

Pim·li·co /ˈpɪmlɪkəʊ/ an area of London N of the Thames and SW of the City

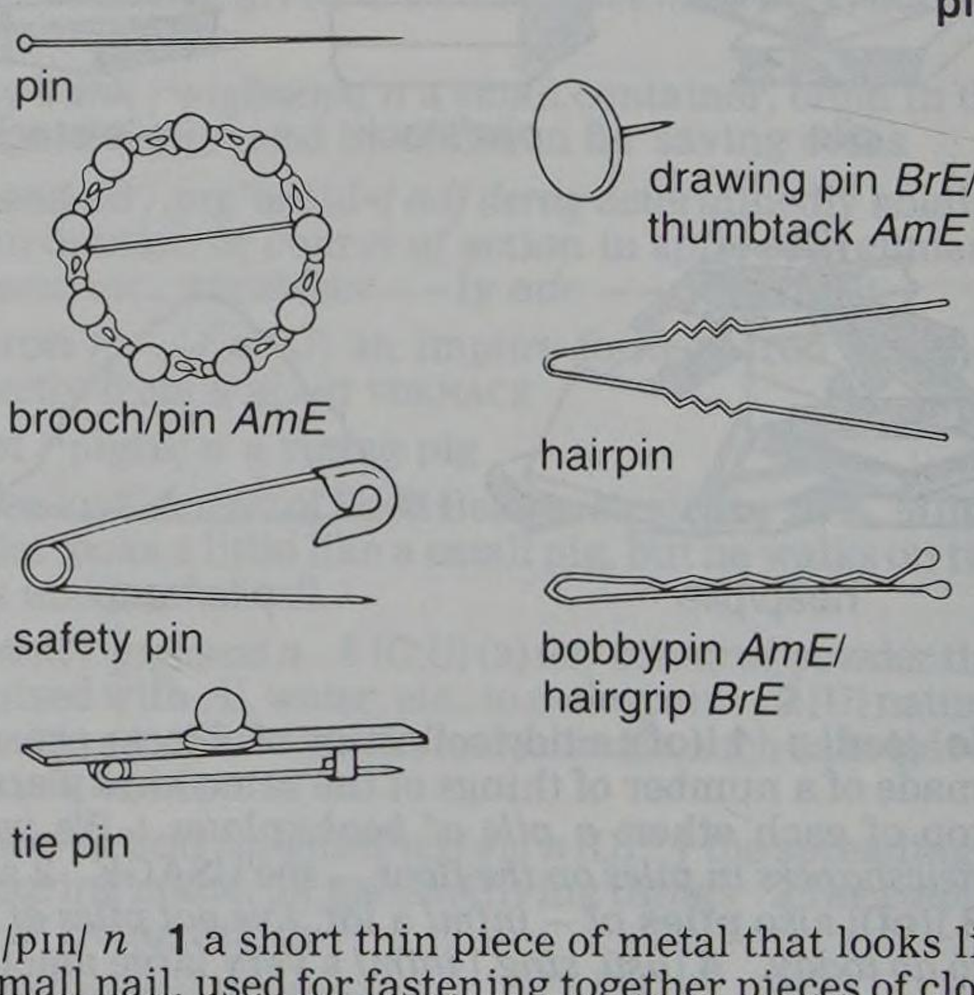
Pimms /pɪmz/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a make of alcoholic drink based usu. on GIN, called in full **Pimms Number One Cup**. Pimms is often drunk in summer at fashionable and/or UPPER-CLASS events such as the Henley Regatta or Wimbledon.

pimp /pɪmp/ *n* a man who controls and makes a profit from the activities of PROSTITUTES —**pimp** *v* [I (**for**)]

pim·per·nel /ˈpɪmpənel‖-ər-/ *n* a small low-growing wild plant with flowers that are blue, white, or esp. SCARLET

pim·ple /ˈpɪmpəl/ *also* **spot** *BrE n* a small raised infected spot on the skin (esp. of the face), usu. containing PUS — see also GOOSE FLESH —**-pled** *adj* —**-ply** *adj* : *pimply skin* | *a pimply youth*

pins



pin[1] /pɪn/ *n* **1** a short thin piece of metal that looks like a small nail, used for fastening together pieces of cloth, paper, etc., used e.g. when making clothes —see also PINCUSHION **2** (*often in comb.*) a quite short thin piece of metal, pointed at one end and with a decoration at the other, used esp. as a form of jewellery: *a hat pin* | *a tie pin* **3** *AmE for* BROOCH **4** a short piece of wood or metal used as a support, for fastening things together, etc.; PEG: *The doctor put a steel pin in his wrist.* **5** [*usu. pl.*] *BrE infml* a leg: *He's a bit unsteady on his pins.* **6** any of the bottle-shaped objects which a player tries to knock down by rolling a ball at them in the game of BOWLING: *He knocked down four pins with his first ball.* **7** *BrE* **for two pins** *infml* without needing to be persuaded very hard: *He's just stepped on my clean floor – for two pins I'd hit him!* —see also DRAWING PIN, NINEPINS, PINS AND NEEDLES, ROLLING PIN, SAFETY PIN

pin[2] *v* **-nn-** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **1** to fasten or join with a pin or pins: *She pinned the front and back pieces of the dress together and tried it on for size.* | *She pinned the notice to the board.* | *He pinned the medal on the soldier's chest.* **2** to keep in one position, esp. by weight from above: *The wrestler pinned his opponent to the canvas.* | *In the accident she was pinned under the car.* **3 Pin your 'ears back!** *infml, esp. BrE* Listen carefully!

pin sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (**to**)] **1** to force to give clear details, make a firm decision, etc.; NAIL **down**: *I won't pin you down to a particular day; just come whenever you're free.* **2** to know or understand clearly (who or what something is); IDENTIFY: *We know there is corruption in the organization but it is difficult to pin it down.*

pin sthg. **on** sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** to fix (guilt, blame, etc.) on: *Don't try and pin the blame on me; I didn't do it!* **2 pin one's hopes on someone** to depend on someone or something for success, help, a favour, etc.

PIN /pɪn/ *also* **PIN number** *n* personal identification number; a special number which is only known to the owner of a special card and which allows the owner to use his card to get money from a CASH POINT (=a machine which gives money from one's bank account). PIN numbers are kept secret so that a thief who steals the card cannot use it to get money.

pi·ña col·a·da /ˌpiːnjə kəʊˈlɑːdə/ *n* [C;U] *Sp* (a glass of) an alcoholic drink made from COCONUT juice, PINEAPPLE juice, and RUM

pin·a·fore /ˈpɪnəfɔːr/ *n BrE* **1** also **pinny** *infml*– a loose garment that does not cover the arms or usu. the back, worn over a dress to keep it clean **2** also **pinafore dress** /ˈ··· ·/ *BrE*‖**jumper** *AmE*– a dress that does not cover the arms, and under which a BLOUSE or other garment is worn

pin·ball /ˈpɪnbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game played on a machine with a sloping board down which a rolling ball is guided by various means: *a pinball machine*

pince-nez /ˌpæns ˈneɪ, ˌpɪns-/ *n* **pince-nez** /-ˈneɪz/ [C+*sing./pl. v*] glasses, used esp. in former times, that are held in position on the nose by a spring, instead of by pieces fitting round the ears –see PAIR (USAGE)

pin·cer /ˈpɪnsəʳ/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] either of the pair of footlike parts, made up of two pieces of pointed shell-like material, at the end of the legs of a CRAB, LOBSTER, etc., used for taking hold of food –see also PINCERS, and see picture at LOBSTER – ~**like** *adj*

pincer move·ment /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an attack by two groups of soldiers advancing from opposite directions to trap the enemy between them

pin·cers /ˈpɪnsəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] a tool made of two crossed pieces of metal with curved parts at one end, used for holding tightly and pulling small things, such as a nail from wood –compare PLIERS; see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at TOOL

pinch[1] /pɪntʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to press (esp. a person's flesh) tightly and usu. painfully between two hard surfaces or between the thumb and a finger: *He pinched his fingers in the car door.* | *She pinched me on the arm.* | *I had to pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming.* | *Stop pinching (me)!* **2** [I] to give pain by being too tight: *Don't buy the shoes if they pinch.* **3** [T] *infml* to take without permission; steal: *My car's been pinched!* **4** [T (**with**) *usu. pass.*] **a** to cause pain to: *They came in pinched with cold and hunger.* **b** to make (the face) thin or tired-looking: *Her face was pinched and drawn with anxiety.* **5** [T (**for**) *often pass.*] *infml for* ARREST[1] (1): *She got pinched for speeding.* **6 pinch and scrape** to spend only what is necessary (or even less) –see also PENNY PINCHER

pinch[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of pinching someone: *She gave him a pinch to wake him up.* | *a playful/spiteful pinch* **2** [C (**of**)] an amount that can be picked up between the thumb and a finger: *a pinch of salt/snuff* –see picture at PIECE **3** [*the*+S] suffering caused by lack of necessary things, esp. money: *It's six months since he lost his job, so he's beginning to* **feel the pinch.** **4 at a pinch** *BrE* ‖ **in a pinch** *AmE*– if necessary: *It's more than I really want to spend, but at a pinch I suppose I could manage £60.* –see also **take something with a pinch of salt** (SALT[1])

pinched /pɪntʃt/ *adj* [F (**for**)] without enough (money); SHORT[1] (4): *We're rather pinched (for money) these days.* –see also PINCH[2] (3)

pin·cush·ion /ˈpɪnˌkʊʃən/ *n* a filled bag like a small CUSHION into which PINS are stuck until they are needed, used esp. by dressmakers

pin·down /ˈpɪndaʊn/ *n* [U] (in Britain) a method of dealing with difficult children in special homes for them which was judged to be against the law. It involved separating the children from others, allowing them to wear few clothes, and giving them little food.

pine[1] /paɪn/ *n* **1** [C] also **pine·tree**– a tall tree with thin sharp leaves (**pine needles**) that do not drop off in winter and woody fruits (**pinecones**), that grows esp. in colder parts of the world: *a pine forest* | *pine-fresh disinfectant* (=smelling of pine) –see picture at TREE **2** [U] the white or yellowish soft wood of this tree: *a pine table*

pine[2] *v* [I] **1** [(AWAY)] to become thin, less active, and lose strength and health slowly, through disease or esp. grief: *He pined away after his wife died.* **2** [(**for**)] to desire very strongly over a long period of time, and to grieve for: *The dog was pining for its dead master.* | *She pined for her lost love until he finally returned.* **3** [(**for**)] to have a strong desire, esp. that is impossible to fulfil: *They were pining for their homeland back in Europe.*

Pine, Court·ney /ˈkɔːtni‖ˈkɔːr-/ (1964–) an English JAZZ musician and COMPOSER known esp. for playing the SAXOPHONE

pin·e·al gland /ˈpɪniəl glænd‖ˈpaɪn-/ *n* a small growth in the brain, the exact purpose of which is not known, but which may be sensitive to light in some way

pine·ap·ple /ˈpaɪnæpəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] (the sweet juicy yellow flesh of) a large dark yellow tropical fruit with a mass of thin stiff leaves on top; pineapples are sold fresh or in tins: *pineapple rings/chunks* | *pineapple juice* –see picture at FRUIT **2** [C] *sl for* HAND GRENADE

pine mar·ten /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a small European animal that lives in forests

pine nee·dles /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the leaves of the pine tree, which are like needles (long, thin, and sharp)

pine straw /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE infml* dried, brown pine needles which have fallen to the ground. Pine straw becomes very deep in a pine forest.

pine·tree /ˈpaɪntriː/ *n* a PINE[1] (1)

pine·wood /ˈpaɪnwʊd/ *n* **1** [C] also **pinewoods** *pl.*– a pine forest **2** [U] the wood of the pine tree

Pinewood Stu·di·os /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [*the* + P] a large film STUDIO (=place where films are made) near Slough, W of London, which opened in 1936

pin·ey /ˈpaɪni/ *adj* PINY

ping[1] /pɪŋ/ *n* [S] *infml* a short sharp ringing sound, such as the sound made by hitting a glass with something hard

ping[2] *v* [I] **1** *infml* to make a ping: *a pinging sound* **2** *AmE for* PINK[3]

ping-pong /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *infml for* TABLE TENNIS

pin·head /ˈpɪnhed/ *n* **1** the head of a pin **2** *infml derog* a rather stupid person

pin·ion[1] /ˈpɪnjən/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to hold or tie up (the arms or legs) in order to prevent movement **2** [(**to**)] to prevent the movement of (a person or animal) by holding or tying up the arms or legs: *The wrestler pinioned his opponent to the floor.*

pinion[2] *n* a small wheel, with teeth on its outer edge, that fits into a larger wheel and turns it or is turned by it – compare COGWHEEL, RACK[1] (3)

pinion[3] *n* **1** *poet* a bird's wing **2** *tech* the joint or part of a bird's wing furthest away from the body

pink[1] /pɪŋk/ *adj* **1** pale red: *salmon pink* | *a pink carnation/rose* **2** *often derog* giving some slight support to SOCIALIST political parties and ideas –compare RED[1] (1); see also PINKO, **tickled pink** (TICKLE[1])

pink[2] *n* **1** [C;U] a pale red colour

► CULTURAL NOTE Pink is often thought of as a colour for females. Girl babies are sometimes given pink clothes and boy babies, blue. ◄

2 [C] a garden plant with sweet-smelling pink, white, or red flowers **3 in the pink** *usu. humor* in perfect health; very well

pink[3] *BrE* ‖ **ping** *AmE*– *v* [I] (of a car engine) to make

knocking sounds as a result of not working properly

pink-col·lar /ˌ· ˈ··/ *adj esp. AmE* of or concerning jobs of fairly low rank such as those of secretaries, waitresses (WAITRESS), typists (TYPIST), clerks, etc. that are usu. taken by women —compare WHITE COLLAR, BLUE-COLLAR

pink el·e·phant /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [*often pl.*] *humor* an imaginary thing supposed to be seen by someone who is drunk

pink·eye /ˈpɪnkaɪ/ *n* [U] *infml for* CONJUNCTIVITIS

Pink Floyd /ˌpɪŋk ˈflɔɪd/ a British rock music group famous for its FUTURISTIC music. Its most well-known ALBUM is *The Wall.*

pink gin /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] *esp. BrE* (a glass of) an alcoholic drink made of GIN, with ANGOSTURA added to give it a pink colour

pink·ie , pinky /ˈpɪŋki/ *n ScotE or AmE* the smallest finger of the human hand —see picture at HAND

pink·ing shears /ˈ·· ·/ also **pinking scis·sors** /ˈ·· ˌ··/— *n* [P] a special type of scissors with blades that have V-shaped teeth, used to cut cloth in such a way that the threads along the cut edge will not come out easily —see PAIR (USAGE)

pink·ish /ˈpɪŋkɪʃ/ *adj* slightly pink

Pink Panther



pink·o /ˈpɪŋkəʊ/ *n* **-oes** *or* **-os** *infml derog* a person who gives some slight support to SOCIALIST political parties and ideas —compare RED[2]; see also PINK[1] (2)

Pink Pan·ther /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] **1** the name of the thief in humorous films about a police officer of middle rank called Inspector Clousseau, usu. played by Peter Sellers **2** a CARTOON character, based on this, who is really pink and really a PANTHER

pink slip /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n AmE* official notice from an employer that one's employment is ended: *We're going to give him the pink slip tomorrow.* —see MARCHING ORDERS, WALKING PAPERS

Pink·y and Perk·y /ˌpɪŋki ənd ˈpɜːki‖-ˈpɜːr-/ two pig PUPPETS that were popular on British children's television in the 1950s and 60s and are remembered esp. for singing songs in high squeaky voices

pin mon·ey /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *infml* a small amount of (additional) money that is earned, esp. by a married woman, and that can be spent on oneself, e.g. on clothes

pin·nace /ˈpɪnəs/ *n* a small boat used for taking goods and esp. people to and from a ship —compare LIGHTER[2]

pin·na·cle /ˈpɪnəkəl/ *n* **1** [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] the highest point or degree: *She had reached the pinnacle of success/fame.* **2** *esp. lit* a pointed stone decoration like a small tower, built on a roof esp. in old churches and castles: *the towers and pinnacles of the ancient city*

pin·nate /ˈpɪneɪt/ *adj tech* (of a leaf) made of little leaves arranged opposite each other in two rows along a stem

Pin·no·chi·o /pɪˈnəʊkiəʊ/ a character from a story and film of the same name. Pinnochio was a boy PUPPET made of wood who came to life and whose nose grew longer when he told lies.

PIN num·ber /ˈpɪn ˌnʌmbəʳ/ *n* see PIN

pin·ny /ˈpɪni/ *n infml for* PINAFORE (1)

Pi·no·chet /ˈpiːnəʊʃeɪ‖ˌpiːnəʊˈtʃet/, **Au·gus·to** /aʊˈgʊstəʊ/ (1915–) a Chilean general who became president of the country after the elected government of Salvador Allende was removed in 1973. He was defeated and removed from office in 1989, but remains head of the armed forces.

piñ·on, pinyon /ˈpɪnjən/ *n* [U;C] a short PINE tree common in western N America, which produces eatable seeds (**piñon nuts**)

pin·point[1] /ˈpɪnpɔɪnt/ *v* [T] **1** to find or describe exactly (the nature or cause of something): *Investigators are trying to pinpoint the causes of the crash.* **2** to show the exact position of: *Can you pinpoint it on the map for me?*

pinpoint[2] *n* [(**of**)] a very small area or point: *a pinpoint of light at the end of the tunnel*

pinpoint[3] *adj* [A] **1** very exact: *The radar enables us to locate the target with pinpoint accuracy.* **2** (of a TARGET to be hit by gunfire, bombs, etc.) very small, esp. as seen from a distance, and needing great care and exactness of aim

pin·prick /ˈpɪnˌprɪk/ *n* **1** a small mark or hole made (as if) by a pin: *Don't make such a fuss; it's only a pinprick!* **2** something that causes slight annoyance or difficulty

pins and nee·dles /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [P] *infml* **1** slight continuous sharp pains in a part of the body, esp. a limb, to which the supply of blood is returning after having been stopped by pressure; pins and needles are usu. the result of sitting in one position for too long: *I've got pins and needles in my right leg.* **2 on pins and needles** *AmE* in a state of anxious expectation

pin·stripe /ˈpɪnstraɪp/ *n* any of a number of thin usu. white lines repeated at regular spaces along usu. dark cloth to form a pattern —**-striped** *adj*

pin·stripe suit /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a suit made of cloth that has a pattern of pinstripes. There is a strong association in people's minds between pinstripe suits and men who work in London's financial institutions —see also CITY GENT

pint /paɪnt/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a measure for liquids, esp. milk or beer: *a pint of milk | Two pints today, please.* (=on a note to the MILKMAN) —see TABLE 2, and see picture at LITRE **2** *BrE infml* a drink of beer of this amount: *We're going for a quick pint. | Let me buy you a pint.*

pint·a /ˈpaɪntə/ *n BrE infml* a pint of milk. A well-known advertisement for milk in Britain said that people should "drink a pinta milk a day".

Pin·ta /ˈpɪntə/ one of the three ships which sailed to America with Christopher Columbus in 1492 —see also NINA, SANTA MARIA

pin·ta·ble /ˈpɪnˌteɪbəl/ *n BrE* a machine for playing PINBALL

Pin·ter /ˈpɪntəʳ/, **Harold** (1930–) a British writer best known for plays like *The Caretaker*, which show the strangeness of ordinary lives and family relationships

pin·to bean /ˈpɪntəʊ ˌbiːn/ *n* a small, light brown bean

pint-size /ˈ· ·/ also **pint-sized**— *adj usu. derog* small and unimportant: *her pint-size boyfriend*

pin·up /ˈpɪnʌp/ *n* **1** a picture of an attractive or admired person, esp. of a woman wearing no clothes, esp. as stuck up on a wall by the admirer **2** the person in such a picture

pin·wheel /ˈpɪnwiːl/ *n AmE for* WINDMILL (2)

pin·y , piney /ˈpaɪni/ *adj* like or containing PINE trees: *a piny smell*

Pin·yin /ˌpɪn ˈjɪn◂/ *n* [U] a system of writing the Chinese language in the Roman alphabet officially recognized in China since 1958 and used in Western newspapers and other public documents

pin·yon /ˈpɪnjən/ *n* see PIÑON

pi·o·neer[1] /ˌpaɪəˈnɪəʳ◂/ *n* **1** any of the first settlers in a new or unknown land, who are later followed by others: *log cabins built by the early pioneers* **2** [(**of**)] a person who does something first and so makes it possible or easier for others to do it later: *He was a pioneer of heart transplant operations.*

pioneer[2] *v* [T] to begin or help in the early development of: *This company pioneered the use of the silicon chip.*

pi·o·neer·ing /ˌpaɪəˈnɪərɪŋ◂/ *adj apprec* introducing new ways of doing things, which others later follow: *She did pioneering work in the field of genetic engineering. | a pioneering firm | a pioneering novel*

pi·ous /ˈpaɪəs/ *adj fml* **1** showing and feeling deep respect for God and religion —see also PIETY **2** *derog* pretending to have deep respect and sincere feelings: *Despite his pious expressions of regret, we could see that the outcome was quite satisfactory to him.* **3** [A] unlikely to be fulfilled: *I suppose some of them may not have been destroyed, but it's a rather* **pious hope.** —**~ly** *adv*

pi·ous·ness /ˈpaɪəsnəs/ *n* [U] PIETY

pip[1] /pɪp/ ‖ *usu.* **seed** *AmE*— *n* a small fruit seed, esp. of an apple, orange, etc.: *He spat out the pips.* —compare STONE[1] (4), and see picture at FRUIT

pip[2] *n* a short high-sounding note, esp. as given on the radio to show the exact time, or as used in the operation of public telephones

pip[3] *n infml* **1** any of the small marks on playing cards, DICE, and dominoes (DOMINO), showing their values **2** *BrE* any of the stars on the shoulders of the coats of army officers of certain ranks: *Captains have three pips.*

pip[4] *v* **-pp-** [T] *BrE infml* to beat narrowly in a race, competition, etc.: *I nearly got the job, but I was* **pipped at the post** (=right at the end of the choosing process) *by the other candidate.*

pip[5] *n* [*the*+S] *old-fash infml, BrE* a feeling of annoyance or lack of cheerfulness: *This rainy weather really* **gives me the pip**.

pi·pal /ˈpiːpəl/ *n* a large Indian tree

pipe[1] /paɪp/ *n* **1** a tube used for carrying liquids or gas, often underground: *a gas|water|sewage pipe | a burst|blocked|broken pipe | to lay pipes under the road | to lag the pipes in the loft* **2** a small tube with a bowl-like container at one end, used for smoking tobacco: *He filled and lit his pipe. | He's a pipe-smoker. | the stem|bowl of a pipe | pipe tobacco* **3 a** a simple tubelike musical instrument, played by blowing **b** any of the tubelike metal parts through which air is forced in an ORGAN **4** **Put 'that in your pipe and smoke it** *infml* You'll have to accept what I've just said, whether you like it or not —see also PIPES

pipe[2] *v* **1** [T **(into, to)** *often pass.*] to carry (esp. liquid or gas) through pipes: *Water is piped to all the houses.* **2** [I; T] *esp. lit* **a** (of a bird) to sing (high notes) **b** (of a person) to speak or sing in a high childish voice —see also PIPE **up** **3** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] *tech* to welcome onto a ship by blowing a special whistle: *The admiral was* **piped aboard.** **4** [T **(with)**] to decorate (a dress, cake, etc.) with PIPING[1] (2b)

pipe down *phr v* [I] *infml* to stop talking or making a noise: *Pipe down! I'm trying to listen to the news.*

pipe up *phr v* [I] *infml* to begin to speak or sing, esp. unexpectedly and in a high voice: *The smallest child piped up with the answer.*

pipe and slip·pers /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* [P] two things which it is thought a man enjoys after a hard day at work. They often appear in jokes and CARTOONS: *Shall I bring your pipe and slippers, dear?*

pipe clean·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a length of wire covered with soft threads, used to unblock the stem of a tobacco pipe. Pipe cleaners are also used by children to make shapes and models.

piped mu·sic /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **canned music**– *n* [U] *often derog* quiet recorded music played continuously in a public place, such as a shop, hotel, or restaurant. The expression is often used as criticism by people who would prefer a higher quality of music or none at all. —see also ELEVATOR MUSIC, MUZAK

pipe dream /ˈ· ·/ *n* an impossible hope, plan, idea, etc.: *His scheme for building a perpetual-motion machine is just a pipe dream.*

pipe fit·ter /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* **1** *BrE* a person who puts in and repairs PIPING[1] (1) **2** *AmE for* GAS FITTER

pipe·line /ˈpaɪp-laɪn/ *n* **1** a line of connected pipes, often underground, esp. for carrying liquids or gas a long distance **2 in the pipeline** about to happen but still in the process of being prepared or produced: *Some important changes in this law are now in the pipeline.*

pipe of peace /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* a PEACE PIPE

pip·er /ˈpaɪpəʳ/ *n* a musician who plays on a PIPE[1] (3a) or BAGPIPES

pipe rack /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small frame for holding several tobacco pipes

Piper Al·pha /ˌ·· ˈ··/ an oil RIG in the North Sea which caught fire in 1988. 167 workers died in the fire. The accident caused criticism of safety standards on oil rigs and the methods of inspecting rigs and making sure that proper safety measures were taken.

pipes /paɪps/ *n* [(*the*) P] *BrE infml for* BAGPIPES

pi·pette /pɪˈpet‖paɪ-/ *n* a thin glass tube used in chemistry, into which exact amounts of liquid can be sucked, then held and/or allowed to flow out —see picture at LABORATORY

pip·ing[1] /ˈpaɪpɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** PIPES[1] (1) in general or a system of pipes: *outdoor piping | a length of copper|plastic piping* **2 a** a narrow often tubelike band of cloth used for decorating the edges of clothes, furniture, etc.: *blue sofa covers with white piping* **b** thin lines of ICING used for decorating cakes **3** the action or skill of a PIPER

piping[2] *adv* **piping hot** *apprec* (esp. of liquids or food) very hot; a word usu. used by someone who is feeling very cold: *piping hot soup*

pip·it /ˈpɪpɪt/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) a small usu. brown or greyish bird: *the meadow pipit*

pip·pin /ˈpɪpɪn/ *n* (*usu. cap. as part of a name*) a kind of sweet apple

pip·squeak /ˈpɪpskwiːk/ *n derog* someone who is not really worth one's attention or respect, but who behaves as if he/she is important, esp. a child

pi·quant /ˈpiːkənt/ *adj* **1** having a pleasant sharp taste: *a piquant sauce* **2** pleasantly interesting and exciting, and giving one a feeling of satisfaction: *a particularly piquant situation when my old enemy asked for my help* —~**ly** *adv* —**-quancy** *n* [U]

pique[1] /piːk/ *n* [U] a feeling of annoyance and displeasure, esp. caused by the hurting of one's pride: *He left* **in a fit of pique**.

pique[2] *v* [T *often pass.*] to make (someone) angry by hurting their pride; offend: *He was piqued by her indifference.*

pi·ra·cy /ˈpaɪərəsi/ *n* **1** [U] robbery by pirates **2** [U] the action of pirating **3** [C] an example of either of these

Pir·an·del·lo /ˌpɪrənˈdeləʊ/, **Lu·i·gi** /luˈiːdʒi/ (1867–1936) an Italian writer known for plays which examine the relationship between the real and the unreal, who won the NOBEL PRIZE for literature in 1934

pi·ra·nha /pɨˈrɑːnjə, -nə/ *n* a fierce South American flesh-eating river fish

pi·rate[1] /ˈpaɪərət/ *n* **1** (esp. formerly) a person who sails the seas stopping and robbing ships at sea. Pirates in stories often speak roughly, drink a lot, esp. RUM, and have a PARROT on their shoulder. They sometimes wear a black PATCH over one eye and have a wooden leg. They also use phrases which are connected esp. with pirates, e.g. "Shiver me timbers" (=used as a phrase showing great surprise). —see also LONG JOHN SILVER and see picture at LONG JOHN SILVER **2** a person who pirates the work of other people —**-ratical** /paɪˈrætɪkəl, pɨ-/ *adj* : *a large piratical beard* —**-ratically** /kli/ *adv*

pirates



pirate[2] *v* [T] to copy and sell (the work of other people, such as a book, a new invention, etc.) without permission or payment, when the COPYRIGHT (=the right to do so) belongs to someone else. It is against the law to pirate books, CASSETTES, VIDEOS, etc. in Britain and in many other countries: *pirated video tapes*

pirate ra·di·o /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] radio broadcasts, or the stations sending them out, which are not legal because they do not have a LICENCE (1) to operate

Pirates of Pen·zance /ˌpaɪərəts əv penˈzæns/, **The** an OPERETTA by Gilbert and Sullivan, about a band of pirates who never succeed in robbing anyone. It contains the humorous songs *The Very Model of a Modern Major General* and *A Policeman's Lot is Not a Happy One.*

Pi·rel·li cal·en·dar /pɪˌreli ˈkælɨndəʳ/ *n* any of the CALENDARS (=table of days arranged in weeks and months) produced yearly by the Pirelli company. Each month shows a photograph of a woman with few clothes on and some people consider the photographs to be artistic.

pir·ou·ette /ˌpɪruˈet/ *n* a very fast turn made on one toe or the front part of one foot, esp. by a BALLET dancer: *to dance|do a pirouette* —**pirouette** *v* [I]

Pi·sa /ˈpiːzə/ a city in N central Italy, famous for its CATHEDRAL and the Leaning Tower —see also LEANING TOWER OF PISA

pis·ca·to·ri·al /ˌpɪskəˈtɔːriəl◂/ *adj fml or pomp* connected with fishing or fishermen

Pis·ces /ˈpaɪsiːz/ *n* **1** the 12th sign of the ZODIAC represented by two fish **2** [C] a person born between February 20 and March 20 —see ZODIAC (USAGE) and see picture at ZODIAC

pish /pɪʃ/ *interj old use* (used to express feelings of not very strong anger or impatience)

piss[1] /pɪs/ *v taboo sl* **1** [I] to URINATE **2** [*it*+I (DOWN)] *esp. BrE* (of rain) to fall heavily: *It's pissing down.* **3 piss oneself** *esp. BrE* to laugh uncontrollably

piss about/around *phr v* [I] *taboo sl* to act in a foolish irresponsible way; waste time

piss off *phr v* **1** [I *usu. imperative*] *taboo sl* to go away **2** [T] (**piss** sbdy. ↔ **off**) *sl, not taboo* **a** *BrE* [*usu. pass.*] to cause to lose interest; BORE: *She's rather pissed off with her job.* **b** to annoy: *The way he insults his friends behind their backs really pisses me off.*

piss[2] *n taboo sl* **1** [U] URINE **2** [S] an act of urinating (URINATE): *to have/take a piss* **3 take the piss out of** *BrE* to make fun of —see also PISS-TAKE

Pis·sar·ro /pɪˈsɑːrəʊ/, **Ca·mille** /kæˈmiːl/ (1830–1903) a French IMPRESSIONIST artist

pissed /pɪst/ *adj* [F] **1** *BrE taboo sl* drunk **2** *AmE sl, not taboo* annoyed or angered **3 pissed as a newt, pissed out of one's head/mind** *BrE taboo sl* very drunk

piss-take /ˈ· ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *taboo sl* an act of making fun of someone —see also **take the piss out of** (PISS[2])

piss-up /ˈ· ·/ *n taboo sl, esp. BrE* an occasion of drinking lots of alcohol

pis·ta·chi·o /pɪˈstɑːʃiəʊ‖pɪˈstæ-/ *n* **-chios** a small green nut: *pistachio ice cream*

pis·til /ˈpɪstl/ *n tech* the female seed-producing part of a flower

pis·tol /ˈpɪstl/ *n* a small gun held in one hand: *to draw/aim/fire a pistol* —see picture at GUN

pis·ton /ˈpɪstən/ *n* a part of an engine consisting of a short solid pipe-shaped piece of metal that fits tightly into a CYLINDER (=a tube). It is moved up and down in the tube by means of pressure or explosion, and causes other parts of the engine to move.

piston ring /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a circular metal spring used to stop gas or liquid escaping from between a piston and its CYLINDER (3)

pit[1] /pɪt/ *n* **1** [C] a hole in the ground: *They dug a pit to bury the rubbish.* —compare PITS (2) **2** [C] a coal mine: *plans for the closure of uneconomic pits | He worked all his life down the pit.* (=in the coal industry) **3** [(*the*) C *usu. sing.*] also **orchestra pit**— the space below and in front of a theatre stage where musicians play the music for a performance **4** [(*the*) C *usu. sing.*] the seats at the back of the ground floor of a theatre, behind the STALLS **5** [C *often pl.*] a small hollow mark or place in the surface of something, esp. as left on the face after certain diseases, esp. SMALLPOX **6** *AmE for* PITS (1) **7** [C *usu. sing.*] *BrE humor* one's bed: *in my pit* **8** [*the*+S] *esp. bibl for* HELL (1) **9 pit of one's stomach** the hollow place just below the chest, esp. thought of as being the place where fear is felt —see also PITS, ARMPIT, SANDPIT

pit[2] *v* **-tt-** [T] to mark with PITS[1] (5): *the deeply/heavily pitted surface of the metal*

pit sbdy./sthg. **against** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to set against in a competition to see which is better, who will win, etc.: *pitting his strength against that of a man twice his size | In the quiz she had to* **pit her wits** (=match her mental ability) *against some very clever people.*

pit[3] *n AmE for* STONE[1] (4) —see picture at FRUIT

pit[4] *v* **-tt-** [T] *AmE for* STONE[2] (2)

pit·a bread /ˈpɪtə bred ‖ ˈpiːtə-/ *AmE* for PITTA BREAD

pit-a-pat /ˈ· · ˌ·/ also **pitter-patter**— *adv infml* with many quick light beats or steps: *His heart went pit-a-pat. | The rain fell pitter-patter against the window.* —**pit-a-pat, pitter-patter** *n* [(*the*) S], *adj* [A]

pit bull ter·ri·er /ˌ· · ˈ···/ also **pit bull** /ˌ· ˈ·◂/— *n* an American fighting dog considered very dangerous when its owner is unable to control it. Pit bull terriers have caused terrible injuries to children and adults. In Britain they may no longer be sold, bred, or brought into the country, and they must wear a MUZZLE (=a covering round the mouth to prevent the dog from biting) when they are in a public place. —see picture at DOG

pitch[1] /pɪtʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to set up (a tent, camp, etc.), esp. for a short time: *They pitched camp by the river.* —opposite **strike** **2** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to set the degree or highness or lowness of (a sound, music, etc.): *This song is pitched too high for my voice.* —see also HIGH-PITCHED, LOW-PITCHED **3** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to express in a way suitable to be understood by particular people: *He pitched his speech at a very simple level so that even the children could understand.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) fall heavily or suddenly forwards or outwards: *His foot caught in a rock and he pitched forwards.* **5** [I] (of a ship or aircraft) to move along with the back and front going up and down: *The ship pitched violently in the stormy sea.* —compare ROLL[1] (6), YAW **6** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to throw, esp. in a way that shows dislike or annoyance; TOSS: *He screwed up the letter and pitched it into the fire.* **7** [I] (of a ball in cricket or GOLF) to hit the ground **8** (in GOLF) to hit (the ball) in a high ARC **9** [T] (of a cricketer) to make (a ball) hit the ground when bowling (BOWL) **10** [I;T] (in the game of BASEBALL) to aim and throw (a ball) **11** [I+*adv/prep*] to slope downwards: *The roof of this house pitches sharply.* —see also PITCHED

pitch in *phr v* [I] *infml* **1** to start to work or eat eagerly, esp. in a group: *If we all pitch in and help we should get the job finished this afternoon.* **2** [(**with**)] to add one's help or support: *The local council pitched in with an offer of a free van.*

pitch[2] *n* **1** [C] *BrE* ‖ **field** *AmE*— (in sport) a special marked-out area of ground on which football, HOCKEY, NETBALL, etc., are played: *The crowd invaded the pitch at the end of the match.* **2** [C] the degree of highness or lowness of a musical note or speaking voice —see also CONCERT PITCH **3** [S (**of**);U] degree; level: *Disagreement reached such a pitch that we thought a fight would break out. | Speculation about the forthcoming election was* **at fever pitch** (=at the highest degree). **4** [C] a place in a public area, such as a street or market, where someone regularly tries to get money from people who are passing, e.g. by performing, selling things, etc. **5** [S] a backward and forward movement of a ship or aircraft — compare ROLL[2] (1) **6** [S;U (**of**)] (esp. in building) amount or degree of slope, esp. of a roof **7** [C] *infml for* SALES PITCH —see also **queer someone's pitch** (QUEER[3])

pitch[3] *n* [U] a black substance that is melted into a sticky material used for making protective coverings or for filling cracks, esp. in a ship, to stop water coming through: *It's* **as black as pitch** (=very dark) *in here; has anyone got a torch?*

pitch-and-putt /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] a game of GOLF on a special course where the holes (HOLE[1] (5b) are shorter than on a full-size golf course

pitch-black /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ also **pitch-dark**— *adj* completely black or dark: *a pitch-black moonless night* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pitch·blende /ˈpɪtʃblend/ *n* [U] a dark shiny substance dug from the earth, from which URANIUM and RADIUM are obtained

pitched /pɪtʃt/ *adj* (of a roof) sloping rather than flat —see also HIGH-PITCHED, LOW-PITCHED

pitched bat·tle /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** (in former times) a battle at a chosen place between armies with positions already prepared —compare SKIRMISH **2** *infml* a fierce and usu. long quarrel or argument: *We had a pitched battle with the council before they'd agree to repair the road.*

pitch·er[1] /ˈpɪtʃəʳ/ *n* **1** *BrE* a large container for holding and pouring liquids, usu. made of clay and having two ear-shaped handles **2** *AmE for* JUG[1] (1) —see picture at JUG

pitcher[2] *n* (in BASEBALL) a player who throws the ball towards the BATTER —see picture at BASE BALL

pitch·fork[1] /ˈpɪtʃfɔːk‖-fɔːrk/ *n* a long-handled farm tool with two long curved metal points, used esp. for lifting and throwing HAY (=dried cut grass)

pitchfork[2] *v* [T] **1** to lift and throw (HAY) using a pitchfork **2** [+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to put (a person) suddenly or unexpectedly into a place or situation for which they are not properly prepared: *He was pitchforked into the post of manager without any training.*

pit·e·ous /ˈpɪtiəs/ *adj esp. lit* expressing suffering in a sad way, so that one feels pity: *the piteous cries of the starving children* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n*

pit·fall /ˈpɪtfɔːl/ *n* an unexpected difficulty or danger; mistake that can easily be made: *English spelling presents many pitfalls for foreign students.*

pith /pɪθ/ *n* [U] **1** a soft white SPONGE-like substance that fills the stems of certain plants **2** a white material just under the coloured outside skin of oranges and similar

fruit **3** the central most important part of an argument, idea, etc.

pit·head /ˈpɪt-hed/ *n* the entrance to a coal mine and the buildings around it: *pithead baths*

pith hel·met /ˈ· ··/ also **topee**– *n* a large light hat worn in the tropics, esp. formerly, to protect the head from the sun

pith·y /ˈpɪθi/ *adj* **1** (of something said or written) strongly and cleverly stated without wasting any words: *pithy advice* **2** of, like, or having a lot of pith –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

pit·i·a·ble /ˈpɪtiəbəl/ *adj rather fml* pitiful –**-bly** *adv*

pit·i·ful /ˈpɪtɪfəl/ *adj* **1** causing or deserving pity: *The sick animals were in a pitiful condition.* **2** *derog* not deserving respect or serious consideration: *You don't expect me to believe that pitiful excuse, do you?* –**-ly** *adv* : *She had become pitifully thin.* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

pit·i·less /ˈpɪtɪləs/ *adj* showing no pity or MERCY; cruel and unforgiving: *a pitiless tyrant* | *pitiless cruelty* | (fig.) *The pitiless* (=unbearably severe) *north wind blew for weeks on end.* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

pit·man /ˈpɪtmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a coal miner

Pi·tot tube /ˈpiːtəʊ tjuːb‖-tuːb/ *n* an instrument used in measuring the speed of an aircraft

pit po·ny /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a small horse used esp. formerly for moving coal in a coal mine

pit prop /ˈ· ·/ *n* a support for the roof of an underground passage in a coal mine

pits /pɪts/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** (in motor racing) a place beside a track where cars can come during a race to be quickly examined and repaired **2** *infml derog* the worst possible example of something: *That new film is the pits!*

pit stop /ˈ· ·/ *n* the action of stopping in the pits during a car race to get more petrol or have repairs done: (fig.) *We'll make a pit stop in Butte to get something to eat and use the restrooms.*

pit·ta bread /ˈpɪtə bred‖ˈpiːtə-/ *BrE* ‖ **pita bread** *AmE*– *n* [U] a type of bread, originally from the Middle East, which is flat and hollow: *For a healthy lunch, fill a piece of pitta bread with lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, and slices of avocado.*

pit·tance /ˈpɪtəns/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a very small ungenerous amount of pay or money: *She gets paid a (mere) pittance in her present job.*

pit·ted /ˈpɪtɨd/ *adj esp. AmE for* STONELESS: *pitted dates*

pit·ter-pat·ter /ˈpɪtə ˌpætəʳ‖ˈpɪtər-/ *adj, adv, n* PIT-A-PAT

Pitts·burgh /ˈpɪtsbɜːg‖-bɜːrg/ *also* **Pitt** /pɪt/ *infml*– an industrial city in the US state of Pennsylvania –see colour map on pages 1374–5

pi·tu·i·ta·ry /pɨˈtjuːɨtəri‖pɨˈtuːɨteri/ also **pituitary gland** /·ˈ···· ˌ·/– *n* a small organ at the base of the brain which produces various HORMONES that influence the growth and development of the body

pit·y[1] /ˈpɪti/ *n* **1** [U] sympathy and sorrow for someone's suffering or unhappiness: *We* **had/took pity on** (=felt sorry for and decided to help) *the homeless family and took them into our house.* **2** [S] a sad, unfortunate, or inconvenient state of affairs; SHAME[1] (4): *"We've got to leave now." "What a pity!"* [+(*that*)] *It's a pity you can't come to the party.* | *"I can't afford to run this car." "(It's a) pity you didn't think of that before you bought it."* (=you should have thought of it) **3 for pity's sake** (used to add force to a request, esp. showing impatience) please: *For pity's sake be quiet and let me get on with my work.* –see SAKE (USAGE) **4** *BrE* **more's the pity** *infml* unfortunately: *I won't be able to come this evening, more's the pity.* –see also SELF-PITY

pity[2] *v* [T] to feel pity for (and perhaps give help to): *Pity us in our distress.* | *I pity anyone who has to feed a family on such a low income.*

piv·ot[1] /ˈpɪvət/ *n* a fixed central point or pin on which something turns: (fig.) *Capturing the enemy-held towns is the pivot of our plans.* (=our plans depend on this, and if we can't do it they won't work)

pivot[2] *v* **1** [I (**on**)] to turn round (as if) on a pivot: *a pivoting gate* **2** [T] to provide with or fix by means of a pivot

pivot on sthg. *phr v* [T] to depend on

piv·ot·al /ˈpɪvətəl/ *adj* **1** of or being a pivot **2** of main importance and influence; CRUCIAL: *a pivotal event in the country's struggle for independence*

pix /pɪks/ *n* [P] *sl* pictures or photographs

pix·el /ˈpɪksəl/ *n tech* the smallest unit of an image on a computer SCREEN[1] (4)

pix·ie , pixy /ˈpɪksi/ *n* a small FAIRY believed to enjoy playing tricks on people

Piz·ar·ro /pɪˈzɑːrəʊ/, **Fran·cis·co** /fræn ˈsɪskəʊ/ (about 1475–1541) a Spanish EXPLORER of South America who took control of Peru and established the city of Lima

piz·za /ˈpiːtsə/ *n* [C;U] a plate-shaped piece of DOUGH or pastry baked with a mixture of cheese, TOMATO*es*, etc., on top. Pizza is originally an Italian food but is now very popular in Britain and the US. Some restaurants specialize in pizzas and will deliver them hot to your door when you make your order by telephone.

Pizza Hut /ˈ·· ˌ·/ any branch of a group of pizza restaurants found in the US and Britain

Pizzaland /ˈpiːtsəlænd/ a company which runs restaurants in many British towns, selling pizzas

piz·za par·lour /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a restaurant whose speciality is pizza

piz·ze·ri·a /ˌpiːtsəˈriːə/ *n* a restaurant which specializes in pizzas

piz·zazz /pəˈzæz/ *n* [U] *sl apprec, esp. AmE* an excitingly forceful quality; DASH[2] (5): *This song and dance show needs more pizzazz.*

piz·zi·ca·to /ˌpɪtsɪˈkɑːtəʊ◂/ *adj, adv* played by picking the strings of a VIOLIN, CELLO, etc. with one's finger instead of using a BOW[3] (2)

pj's , PJ's /ˌpiː ˈdʒeɪz/ *n* [P] *AmE infml* PYJAMAS– **pj** *adj*: *pj bottoms*

pl. *written abbrev. for:* plural

plac·ard[1] /ˈplækɑːd‖-ərd/ *n* a large notice or advertisement put up or carried in a public place: *The demonstrators carried placards attacking the government.*

plac·ard[2] /ˈplækɑːd‖-ɑːrd/ *v* [T] to stick placards on or all over

pla·cate /pləˈkeɪt‖ˈpleɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] to cause to stop feeling angry; APPEASE: *I tried to placate her by offering to pay for the repairs.* –**-catory** /pləˈkeɪtəri, ˈplækətəri‖ ˈpleɪkətɔːri/ *adj* : *placatory words*

place[1] /pleɪs/ *n* **1** [C] a particular area or position in space in relation to others: *This is the place where the accident happened.* | *Where would be the best place to put this new clock?* | *Put it back in its place.* (=the position where it usually is) | *I've got a sore place* (=area) *on my lip.* | (fig.) *I dropped the book and* **lost my place.** (=could not find the point I had reached in reading it) | (fig.) *Could you* **keep my place** *in the queue* (=make sure no one comes and stands where I have been standing) *while I go and get a paper?* | (fig.) *People with racist views have no place in our union.* (=we will not accept them) **2** [C] a particular part of the Earth's surface, such as a stretch of land, a town, a building, etc.: *Moscow is a very cold place in winter.* | *What a desolate place the moon must be.* | *Is London a nice place to live?* | *a place of worship* (=a church, temple, etc.) | *This restaurant is one of the best places to eat in London.* | *They've bought a little place* (=house) *in the country.* | *Come over to my place* (=home) *tomorrow.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a position that can be used by someone for a particular purpose: *There were still some empty places* (=seats) *on the coach.* | *He's been offered a place at university.* (=as a student) | *They* **laid a place** *for him at the table.* (=put a knife, fork, spoon, etc. in position) **4** [C] a proper or suitable occasion or moment: *A business meeting isn't the place at which to talk about one's private life.* **5** [C *usu. sing.*] a (numbered) position in the result of a competition, race, etc.: *John took first place in the history exam.* | *I finished in third place.* | (fig.) *Our personal wishes* **take second place to** (=are less important than) *the needs of the children.* **6** [C] social position; rank: *This has been talked about* **in high places.** (=by people of high rank and influence) | *He thought he was being very clever, but she soon* **put him in his place.** (=showed that he was not) **7** [S] a usu. numbered point in an argument, explanation, etc.: **In the first place** *I don't want to go, and* **in the second place** *I can't afford to.* **8** [C] the position of a figure in a row of figures, to the right of a decimal point: *If you divide 11 by 9 and*

calculate the division to four decimal places, the answer is 1.2222. **9** [S] duty; what one should or must do: *It's not your place to tell me what to do.* **10** [C *usu. sing.*] *tech* any of the first three positions in the result of a horse race, esp. the second (*BrE* or third) position: *£5 on Not So Fast for a place, please* (=to come second or third) **11 all over the place** *infml* **a** everywhere **b** in disorder: *She's left her books spread all over the place.* **12 a place for everything (and everything in its place)** (usu. said to express the idea that things should be returned to where they belong, so they can be easily found) **13 click/fall/slot into place** (of a set of events, facts, etc.) to be seen in its proper order or position, esp. so that the whole thing can be understood: *When the newspaper published his photo, everything fell into place: he was the man I'd seen at the scene of the crime.* **14 ˈgo places** *infml* (*usu. in progressive forms or in future tenses*) to be increasingly successful: *That girl's got a lot of talent; she's really going to go places.* **15 in place**: **a** in the proper or usual position:*As soon as all the chairs are in place, we can let the people in.* **b** in existence and ready to be used: *The new regulations are now in place.* **16 in place of** instead of: *In place of our advertised programme we will be showing a film.* | *Jane couldn't go so I attended the conference in her place.* **17 out of place**:**a** not in the proper or usual position **b** unsuitable(for the occasion or situation): *The luxurious furnishings would not have been out of place in a palace.* **18 place in the sun** *infml* a position that is favourable to someone's future development **19 take one's place**: **a** to go to one's special position for some activity: *Take your places for the next dance.* **b** to be considered as being: *This new work will take its place among the most important paintings of this century.* **20 take place** to happen, esp. by arrangement: *the peace talks currently taking place in Geneva* —see HAPPEN (USAGE) **21 take the place of** to act or be used instead of; REPLACE: *Electric trains have now taken the place of steam trains in England.* | *I can't come to the meeting myself, so my deputy will take my place.* —see also PRIDE OF PLACE

▷ USAGE **Room** [U] and **place** [C] can both mean free space that can be used for a purpose; but **place** is used for a single particular piece of space, while **room** means space in general: *"Is there (any)* **room** *for me to sit down in here?" "Yes, there's a* **place** *in the corner."* | *This is the* **place** *where we keep the coal.* | *There's no* **room** *for any more coal in here.* —see also POSITION¹ (USAGE)◁

place² *v* [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *rather fml* to put or arrange in the stated position: *He placed the book carefully on the shelf.* | *Her request places me in a very difficult position.*| *Place the ten wines in order of preference.* | (fig.) *A politician should place his loyalty to the people above party interest.* **2** to give to a person, firm, etc., who can do the needed action: *We placed an order with them for 500 pairs of shoes.* (=we ordered these shoes from them) | *to place* (=make) *a bet* **3** [+*obj*+*adj*|*adv*|*prep*; *usu. pass.*] to state the position of (a runner) at the end of a race: *He was placed second.* **4** [*usu. in questions and negatives*] to remember fully the name or other details of (someone or something), and where and when one last saw or heard them or it: *I'm sure I've met her before somewhere, but I can't quite place her.* **5** to find a suitable job for **6** (of a horse in a race) **a** *BrE* [*pass*] to come in second or third: *Last season Freda's Boy won once and was placed twice.* **b** *AmE* [I] to come in second: *Seadog placed in the last race.* | *$10 on Bengal Lady to place, please.*

pla·ce·bo /plə'si:bəʊ/ *n* **-bos** *or* **-boes** a substance given instead of real medicine, without the person who takes it knowing that it is not real. Often a person will become well simply because they know they've been given a medicine, whether or not the medicine works. This is called the **placebo effect.**

place card /'· ·/ *n* a small card with someone's name on it, put on a table to show where they are to sit at a formal dinner

placed /pleɪst/ *adj esp. BrE* **1** [F **(for)**] in the stated situation: *How are you placed for money?* (=Have you got enough money?) **2 be placed** see PLACE² (6)

place kick /'· ·/ *n* a kick at a ball, esp. in RUGBY, placed or held in position on the ground

place mat /'· ·/ *n* a mat for a single PLACE SETTING at a table

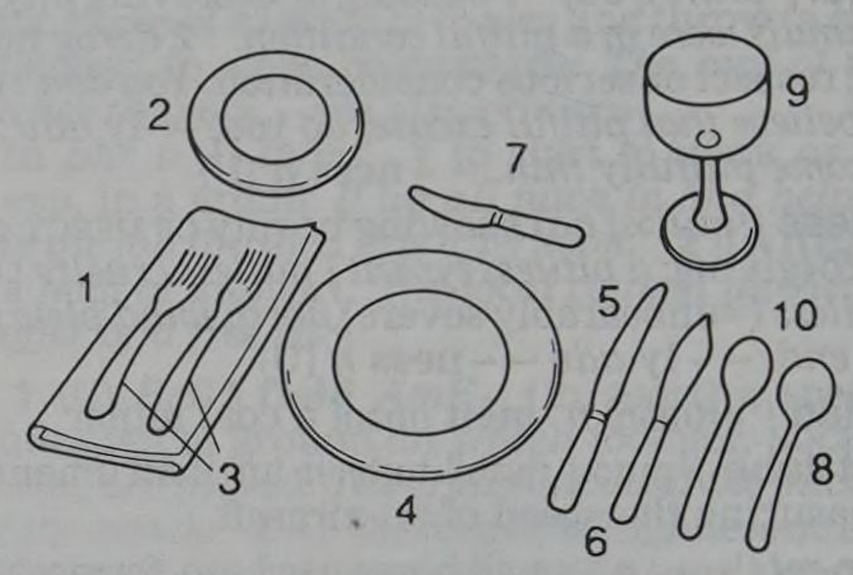
place·ment /'pleɪsmənt/ *n* [C;U] the act or an example of placing someone or something in position: *The university offers a placement service for its graduates.* (=a service to find jobs for them)

pla·cen·ta /plə'sentə/ *n* **-tas** *or* **-tae** /ti:/ a thick mass of flesh containing many blood tubes, which forms inside the WOMB to join an unborn child to its mother —compare AFTERBIRTH

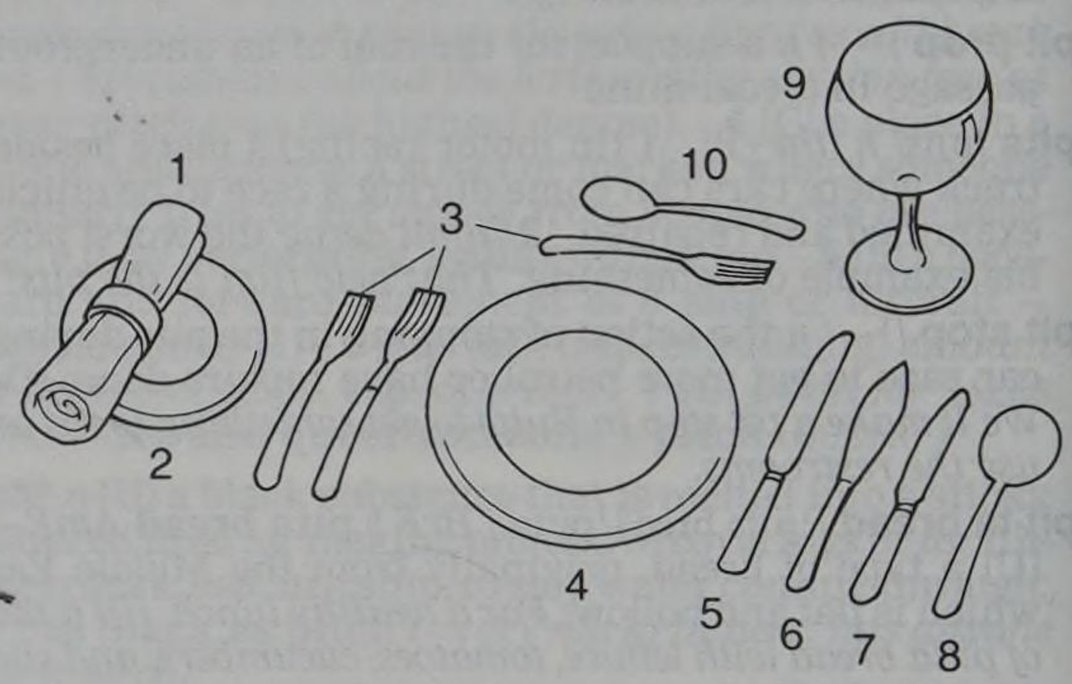
place of work /ˌ· · '·/ *n* **places of work** *tech* the place where a person goes to work

place of wor·ship /ˌ· · '··/ *n* **places of worship** a building where people worship or practise their religion: *mosques, synagogues, and other places of worship*

place settings



an American place setting



a British place setting

1 napkin/serviette	6 fish knife
2 side plate	7 butter knife
3 fork	8 soup spoon
4 plate	9 wine glass
5 knife	10 dessertspoon

place set·ting /'· ˌ··/ *n* an arrangement of knives, forks, spoons, glasses, etc., to be used by one person when eating at a table

places of in·terest /ˌ·· · '··/ *n* [P] the places, such as MUSEUMS, historic buildings, etc., in an area which tourists go to see: *There are many places of interest in and around Oxford, including the Botanical Gardens, the Colleges and, a short distance away, the historic market town of Abingdon.*

plac·id /'plæsɨd/ *adj* **1** (of a person or animal) not easily made angry or excited: *a placid child|disposition* **2** (of a thing) calm; peaceful: *the placid surface of the lake* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness, ~ity** /plə'sɪdɨti/ *n* [U]

plac·ing /'pleɪsɪŋ/ *n tech* a sale of shares, STOCKS, or BONDS by a company to people or institutions who have agreed in advance to buy them

pla·gia·ris·m /'pleɪdʒərɪzəm/ *n* **1** [U] the action of plagiarizing **2** [C] a plagiarized idea, phrase, story, etc.: *an article full of plagiarisms* —**-rist** *n*

pla·gia·rize also **-rise** *BrE* /'pleɪdʒəraɪz/ *v* [I;T] to take (words, ideas, etc.) from (someone else's work) and use them in one's own work without admitting one has done so. If you plagiarize at university in Britain or the US you may be refused a degree: *Half the ideas in his talk were plagiarized from an article I wrote last year.*

plague¹ /pleɪg/ *n* **1** [C] an attack of disease causing death and spreading quickly to a large number of people: *Europe suffered many plagues in the Middle Ages.* **2** [(*the*) U] a very infectious disease that produces high fever,

swellings on the body, and death, esp. BUBONIC PLAGUE —see also BLACK DEATH **3** [C+**of**] a widespread, uncontrollable, and harmful mass or number: *a plague of rats/insects* **4 a plague on someone/something** *lit* (used as a curse to express the wish that someone/something will suffer)

plague[2] *v* [T] **1** to cause continual discomfort, suffering, or trouble to: *She's been plagued by back pain all her life.* **2** [(**with**)] to annoy, esp. by some repeated action: *He's been plaguing me with silly questions all day!*

plaice /pleɪs/ *n* **plaice** [C;U] a flat sea fish commonly eaten

plaid /plæd/ *n* **1** [U] thick material having a pattern of squares formed by brightly coloured crossing bands, esp. of a sort (TARTAN) originally from Scotland **2** [C] a piece of plaid worn over the shoulder and across the chest by Scotsmen as part of their NATIONAL COSTUME

Plaid Cym·ru /ˌplaɪd ˈkʌmri/ a political party in Wales representing people who want a separate Welsh state and more use of the Welsh language

plain[1] /pleɪn/ *adj* **1** simple; without anything added; without decoration: *plain food | You should wear a plain blouse with this checked skirt.* | (fig.) *The plain fact is that we just can't afford it.* **2 a** clear; easy to see, hear, or understand: *It's quite plain (to me) that you haven't been paying attention.* | *Explain it in plain English.* **b** showing clearly, honestly, and exactly what is thought or felt; FRANK: *plain speaking | I hope I've made myself plain on this issue.* **3** (of paper) without lines **4** *euph* (esp. of a woman) not pretty or good-looking; rather ugly **5** [A] complete; undoubted: *It's just plain foolishness to spend all your pay as soon as you get it!* **6 as plain as day/as a pikestaff/as the nose on your face** *infml* very noticeable or clearly understandable; OBVIOUS —see also PLAINLY — **~ness** *n* [U]

plain[2] also **plains** *pl.*— *n* a large stretch of flat land: *the Great Plains of the US* —see GREAT PLAINS

plain[3] *adv infml* completely: *That's just plain stupid!*

plain[4] also **knit**— *n* [U] *tech* the ordinary stitch in knitting (KNIT): *three plain, two purl* —compare PURL[1]

plain·chant /ˈpleɪntʃɑːnt‖-tʃænt/ *n* [U] PLAINSONG

plain choc·olate /ˌ· ˈ··‖ˌ· ˈ···/ *BrE* ‖ *dark chocolate AmE* — *n* [U] dark chocolate made without milk and with little sugar —compare MILK CHOCOLATE

plain-clothes /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a policeman) wearing ordinary clothes while on duty, rather than a uniform: *a plain-clothes detective investigating a murder*

plain flour /ˌ· ˈ·/ *BrE*‖**all-purpose flour** *AmE*— *n* [U] flour that contains no BAKING POWDER —compare SELF-RAISING FLOUR

plain·ly /ˈpleɪnli/ *adv* **1** in a PLAIN[1] (1,2) way: *Their conversation could be quite plainly heard by the neighbours.* | *plainly dressed | I told her plainly what I thought of her scheme.* **2** it is clear that; OBVIOUSLY: *The door's locked, so plainly they must be out.*

plain sail·ing /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a situation or course of action that is free from difficulty or trouble: *We've got over the difficult part, so it will be plain sailing from now on.*

plain·song /ˈpleɪnsɒŋ‖-sɔːŋ/ also **plainchant** *n* [U] a type of old Christian church music for voices that has no HARMONY and sounds rather like sung speech

plain·spo·ken /ˌpleɪnˈspəʊkən◂/ *adj* direct and honest in what one says, sometimes in a rude way; BLUNT[1] (2) — compare OUTSPOKEN

plaint /pleɪnt/ *n poet* an expression of great sorrow

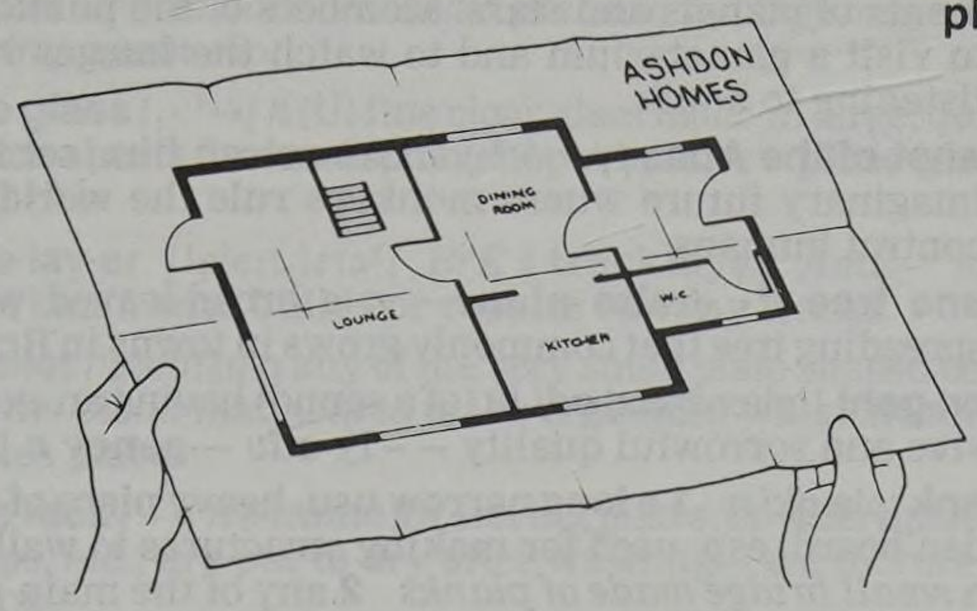
plain·tiff /ˈpleɪnt‿ɘf/ also **complainant**— *n* a person who brings a charge against someone (the DEFENDANT) in a court of law

plain·tive /ˈpleɪntɪv/ *adj* **1** (usu. of a sound) expressing suffering or sorrow: *We heard a plaintive whimpering coming from the kitchen – it was the dog, who'd been locked in.* **2** expressing gentle sadness: *a plaintive love song* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

plait[1] /plæt‖pleɪt/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **braid** *esp. AmE*— *n* [*often pl.*] a length of something, esp. hair, made by plaiting: *The little girl wore plaits/wore her hair in plaits.* —compare PIGTAIL, PONYTAIL

plait[2] *esp. BrE* ‖ **braid** *esp. AmE*— *v* [T] to form (hair, dried stems of grass, etc.) into a ropelike length by twisting three or more lengths of it over and under each other: *plaited hair | a plaited leather belt*

plan



She studied the plan of the house.

plan[1] /plæn/ *n* [(**for, of**)] **1 a** an arrangement, esp. one that has been carefully considered, for carrying out some (future) activity: *new government plans for reducing inflation | If we keep to the plan, the work should be completed in two weeks.* [+*to-v*] *They devised* (=made) *a plan to rob a bank.* | *I'm glad to say the meeting* **went according to plan**. (=as we expected) **b** a future course of action that has been decided on; aim or intention: *His plan is to get a degree in economics and work abroad for two years.* | *What are your plans for the weekend?* **c** a way of doing something or bringing something about: *Your best plan would be to catch a taxi; that's the only way you'll get there in time.* —see REFUSE (USAGE) **2 a** an arrangement of the parts of a group or system: *What's the seating plan for the guests at dinner?* **b** a maplike drawing showing this: *a street-plan of London | The spy stole the secret plans for the new submarine.* **3** a drawing of a building or room as it might be seen from above, showing the shape, measurements, position of the walls, etc. —compare ELEVATION (3), SECTION[1] (3); see also GROUND PLAN

plan[2] *v* **-nn-** **1** [I (**for, on**);T (OUT)] to make a plan for (something); arrange (carefully) in advance: *He never plans (ahead) – he just waits to see what will happen.* | *We hadn't planned for/on so many guests, so there wasn't enough food.* | *We've been planning this visit for months; it's all planned out.* | *I'd planned on doing some work this afternoon.* (=that's what I had intended to do) [+*to-v*] *Where do you plan* (=intend) *to spend your holiday?* **2** [T] to make drawings, models, or other representations of (something to be built or made); DESIGN: *the architect who planned the new shopping centre*

Plan B /ˌ· ˈ·/ *infml* the action which is planned if a main plan fails, or if anything goes wrong

Planck /plæŋk‖plɑːŋk/, **Max** (1858–1947) a German scientist who developed the ideas on which QUANTUM THEORY is based

plane[1] /pleɪn/ *n* **1** an AEROPLANE: *The next plane to New York departs in 20 minutes.* | *It's quicker by plane.* **2** a level; standard: *Let's keep the conversation on a friendly plane.* | *You can't really compare the two newspapers – they're on completely different intellectual planes.* **3** *tech* (in GEOMETRY) a completely flat surface

▷ USAGE If you are in control of a plane you **fly** it or **pilot** it. As a passenger, you travel **by** plane, and **in** or **on** a particular plane. At the beginning of your journey you **get on** or **board** a plane and at the end of your journey you **get off** it. —see also DRIVE[1] (USAGE), TRANSPORT[1] (USAGE), STEER (USAGE)◁

plane[2] *adj* [A] *tech* **1** completely flat and smooth: *a plane surface* **2** about or being lines and figures with only length and width; TWO-DIMENSIONAL: **Plane geometry** *is the study of plane figures, angles, measurements, etc.*

plane[3] *n* a tool with a blade that takes very thin pieces off wooden surfaces to make them smooth —see picture at TOOL

plane[4] *v* [T] to use a PLANE[3] on: *He planed the door.* | *He planed the door smooth.* | *Try to plane down those bumps in the wood.*

plane[5] *n* a PLANE TREE

plan·et /ˈplæn‿ɘt/ *n* a large body in space that moves round a star, esp. round the sun: *The Earth is a planet.* | *the planet Mars | Is there life on other planets?* — **~ary** *adj*: *planetary motion* —see also INTERPLANETARY

plan·e·tar·i·um /ˌplænɨˈteəriəm/ *n* **-riums** *or* **-ria** /riə/ a building containing an apparatus that throws spots of light onto the inside of a curved roof to show the movements of planets and stars. Members of the public pay to visit a planetarium and to watch the images while listening to a talk.

Planet of the Apes /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/ an American film, set in an imaginary future where monkeys rule the world and control humans

plane tree /ˈ· ·/ also **plane–** *n* a broad-leaved wide-spreading tree that commonly grows in towns in Britain

plan·gent /ˈplændʒənt/ *adj lit* (of a sound) having an expressive and sorrowful quality – ~**ly** *adv* –**gency** *n* [U]

plank /plæŋk/ *n* **1** a long narrow usu. heavy piece of wooden board, esp. used for making structures to walk on: *a small bridge made of planks* **2** any of the main principles of a political party's stated set of aims: *The main plank in their election programme is the promise to cut taxes.* –see also **as thick as two planks** (THICK[1] (12)), **walk the plank** (WALK[1])

plank·ing /ˈplæŋkɪŋ/ *n* [U] planks, esp. put down as a floor

plank·ton /ˈplæŋktən/ *n* [U] the very small forms of plant and animal life that live in water, esp. the sea, and are eaten by many fish

planned ob·so·les·cence /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] (an act of) making a product with a feature that will become unfashionable or unusable in a short time, so that the person who bought the product will soon have to buy something to replace it

Planned Pa·rent·hood /ˌ· ˈ···/ an American private organization which gives free advice on FAMILY PLANNING (=the controlling of the number of children born in a family)

plan·ner /ˈplænəʳ/ *n* (*often in comb.*) a person who plans, esp. one who plans the way in which towns develop – see also TOWN PLANNING

planning per·mis·sion /ˈ·· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] official permission to put up a new building or change an existing one. Planning permission must be obtained from the local authority or, in some cases, the government before work begins: *The garage was built without planning permission.*

plant[1] /plɑːnt‖plænt/ *n* **1** [C] a living thing that has leaves and roots, and grows usu. in earth, esp. the kind smaller than trees: *All plants need water and light.* | *a potato plant* –see also HOUSEPLANT **2** [C] (*often in comb.*) a factory or other place where an industrial process is carried out: *a water-softening plant* | *They've just built a new chemical plant.* –see also POWER PLANT **3** [U] heavy machinery, esp. used for industrial processes: *investing in new plant for our factory* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] *infml* something, esp. stolen goods, that has been hidden on someone so that it will be found, and they will seem guilty

plant[2] *v* [T] **1** to put (plants or seeds) in the ground to grow: *We've planted a tree|some tomatoes in the garden.* | (fig.)*The propaganda had planted the seeds of doubt in their minds.* **2** [(**with**)] to put seeds or growing plants in the ground in (a place): *We're planting a small garden.* | *The hillside was planted with trees.* **3** [(**on**)] *infml* to hide (esp. stolen or illegal goods) on someone so that they will be found and the person will seem guilty: *These drugs aren't mine – they must have been planted on me!* **4** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* to put in position secretly or so as to deceive: *Plain-clothes policemen had been planted at all the exits.* | *bombs planted in the railway station* | *She suspected the stories had been planted in the newspapers by her enemies, to discredit her.* **5** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *infml* to fix or place firmly or forcefully: *He planted a knife in her back.* | *She planted herself in a chair by the fire.* | *She planted a kiss on his cheek.* (=kissed his cheek firmly)

plant sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to place (a plant grown in a pot) in soil outdoors with enough room for growth

Plan·ta·ge·nets /plænˈtædʒənəts/ [*the* + P] the royal family of England from 1154 to 1399 which included Henry II, Richard II, and Richard III

plan·tain[1] /ˈplæntɨn/ *n* [C;U] (the fruit of) a treelike tropical plant with yellowish-green fruit that are like BANANAS but are cooked before being eaten

plantain[2] *n* a common wild plant with small green flowers and wide leaves growing close to the ground

plan·ta·tion /plænˈteɪʃən, plɑːn-‖plæn-/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a large piece of land, esp. in tropical countries, on which crops such as tea, cotton, sugar, and rubber are grown: *a rubber plantation* **2** (in the Southern US) such a large piece of land, growing cotton or other crops, esp. before the CIVIL WAR, when plantation-owners could own many black SLAVES to do the work. Plantations are remembered for their large, expensive, white, COLUMNED houses, the wealth of their owners, and because they exploited (EXPLOIT) slaves. **3** a large group of trees planted esp. to produce wood: *a plantation of fir trees*

plant·er /ˈplɑːntəʳ‖ˈplæn-/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a person who owns or is in charge of a plantation: *a tea planter* **2** (*usu. in comb.*) a machine for planting: *a potato planter* **3** a container in which plants are grown for decorative purposes

plant hire /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *BrE* ‖ **equipment rental** *AmE*– the borrowing for money of heavy equipment such as diggers. Builders often borrow equipment rather than buy it

plant pot /ˈ· ·/ *BrE*‖**flower pot** *AmE*– *n* a usu. plastic pot in which a plant or plants are grown, in the house or for replanting in the garden

plaque /plɑːk, plæk‖plæk/ *n* **1** [C] a flat decorative metal or stone plate that is fixed to a wall esp. one that has writing on it describing a famous person who once lived at that place, an event that happened near there, etc. **2** [U] *med* a substance that forms on teeth, and in which bacteria can live and breed –compare TARTAR[1] (1)

plas·ma /ˈplæzmə/ *n* [U] **1** also **blood plasma**– the yellowish liquid which contains the blood cells; liquid part of blood **2** a gaslike substance that is found inside stars, in flashes of electricity, etc.

plas·ter[1] /ˈplɑːstəʳ‖ˈplæ-/ *n* **1** [U] a mixture of LIME, water, sand, etc., which hardens when dry and is used, esp. on walls, to give a smooth surface **2** [C;U] *BrE*‖**Bandaid** *tdmk AmE*– (a thin band of) material that can be stuck to the skin to protect small wounds **3 in plaster** in a PLASTER CAST (2): *with his leg in plaster*

plaster[2] *v* [T] **1** to put wet plaster on; cover with plaster: *to plaster the walls in a new house* | (fig.) *The government thinks the cracks in its policies can be plastered over* (=that their faults can be hidden) *with fine-sounding promises.* **2** to spread (something), perhaps too thickly, on (a surface); cover: [+*obj*+**with**] *They plastered the wall with posters.* [+*obj*+**on, over**] *They plastered posters on the wall|all over the wall.* | *a child completely plastered with mud* **3** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cause to lie flat or stick to another surface with a sticky substance: *He'd plastered his hair down with grease.*

plas·ter·board /ˈplɑːstəbɔːd‖ˈplæstərbɔːrd/ *n* [U] board made of large sheets of cardboard held together with plaster, used instead of plaster to cover walls and CEILINGS

plaster cast /ˌ·· ˈ·, ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a copy, esp. of a STATUE, made from plaster of paris **2** a case made from plaster of paris, placed round a part of the body to protect or support a broken bone

plas·tered /ˈplɑːstəd‖ˈplæstərd/ *adj* [F] *sl* drunk

plas·ter·er /ˈplɑːstərəʳ‖ˈplæ-/ *n* a person whose job is to PLASTER[2] walls, CEILINGS, etc.

plaster of par·is /ˌplɑːstər əv ˈpærɨs‖ˌplæ-/ *n* [U] (*often cap. 2nd* P) a quick-drying whitish mixture of GYPSUM (=a chalklike powder) and water, used for plaster casts, in decorative building work, etc.

plas·tic[1] /ˈplæstɪk/ *n* **1** [C;U] a light artificial material produced chemically, which can be made into different shapes when soft, keeps its shape when hard, and is commonly used for making various objects: *a plastic spoon* | *These spoons are plastic|are made of plastic.* | *He packed his sandwiches in a plastic bag.* **2** [U] see PLASTIC MONEY

plastic[2] *adj* **1** *tech* (of a substance) easily formed into various shapes by pressing, and able to keep the new shape: *Clay and wax are plastic substances.* **2** *infml derog* artificial; SYNTHETIC: *plastic food* (=food containing artificial substances)

plastic art /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*;U] *tech* (an) art concerned with representing things in a form that can be seen, esp. painting, SCULPTURE, or making films

plastic bul·let /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a large bullet made of hard plastic that is meant to hurt but not kill people and is used for controlling violent crowds

plastic card /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a CREDIT CARD, DEBIT CARD, CHARGE CARD, etc.

plastic ex·plo·sive /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] (a small bomb made from) an explosive substance that can be shaped by hand

plas·ti·cine /ˈplæstˌsiːn/ *BrE tdmk* ‖ **play dough** *AmE–* *n* [U] a soft claylike substance made in many different colours, used by young children for making small models, shapes, etc.

plas·tic·i·ty /plæsˈtɪsˌti/ *n* [U] *tech* the quality of being PLASTIC[2] (1)

plastic mac /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a usu. cheap RAINCOAT made from plastic

plastic mon·ey /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **plastic**– *n* [U] *infml* small plastic cards used instead of money for making payments; CREDIT CARDS: *Does the restaurant take plastic money?* | *Can I put it on the plastic?* (=can I use a credit/DEBIT/CHARGE card to pay for it)

plas·tics /ˈplæstɪks/ *n* [U] the producing of plastic: *the plastics industry*

plastic sur·ge·ry /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the repairing or improving of damaged, diseased, or unsatisfactorily shaped parts of the body with pieces of skin or bone taken from other parts of the body. In Britain and the US plastic surgery must be paid for if it is not considered necessary for medical reasons: *She had plastic surgery on her face after the car accident.* –compare COSMETIC SURGERY –**plastic surgeon** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n*

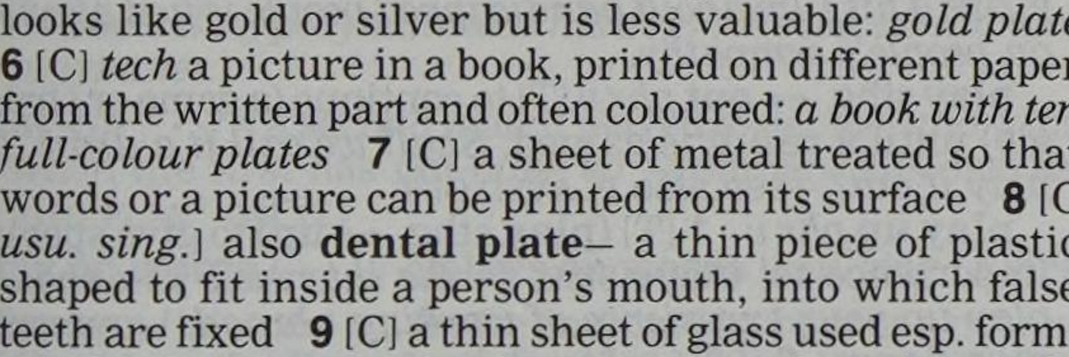
plastic wrap /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *also* **saran wrap** *tdmk– n AmE for* CLING FILM

plat du jour /ˌplɑː dʊ ˈʒʊəʳ/ *n* **plats du jour** (*same pronunciation*) *Fr* the special dish to which the owner of a restaurant draws people's attention on a particular day

plate[1] /pleɪt/ *n* **1** [C] **a** also **dish** *AmE–* a flat usu. round dish with a slightly raised edge, from which food is eaten or served: *The plates were piled high with rice.* | *a dinner plate* **b** also **plate·ful**/-fʊl/– the amount of food that this will hold: *a plate of meat and potatoes* –see picture at PLACE SETTING **2** [C] (*often in comb.*) a flat, thin, usu. large piece of something hard: *The reptile's body is covered with protective horny plates.* | *The surgeon inserted a metal plate into the damaged skull.* | *The Earth's crust is made up of vast interlocking sheets of rock, known as plates.* –see also ARMOUR PLATE, FOOTPLATE **3** [U] articles made of valuable metal: *All the church plate has been locked up.* **4** [C] (*often in comb.*) a small sheet of metal with letters, information, etc. on it: *the numberplate on a car* –see also L-PLATE, NAMEPLATE **5** [U] (*often in comb.*) ordinary metal with a thin covering of gold or silver; it looks like gold or silver but is less valuable: *gold plate* **6** [C] *tech* a picture in a book, printed on different paper from the written part and often coloured: *a book with ten full-colour plates* **7** [C] a sheet of metal treated so that words or a picture can be printed from its surface **8** [C *usu. sing.*] also **dental plate**– a thin piece of plastic shaped to fit inside a person's mouth, into which false teeth are fixed **9** [C] a thin sheet of glass used esp. formerly in photography, having on one surface chemicals that are sensitive to light **10** [*the*+S] a metal dish or small bag used to collect money in church: *The plate was passed around.* **11** HOME PLATE **12 on a plate** *infml* with too little effort: *They just handed the game to the other team on a plate.* (=allowed them to win it too easily) **13 on one's plate** *infml* to deal with (and giving one a lot of problems): *I can't possibly take a holiday at the moment; I've got far too much on my plate.*

plate[2] *v* [T (**with**)] to cover (a metal article) thinly with another metal, esp. gold, silver, or tin: *The ring wasn't solid gold – it was only plated (with gold)/gold-plated.*

plateau



plat·eau /ˈplætəʊ‖plæˈtəʊ/ *n* **-teaus** *or* **-teaux** /-təʊ/ **1** a large stretch of level land that is higher than the land around it on at least one side –see picture at MOUNTAIN **2** a steady unchanging level, period, or condition: *House prices seem to have reached a plateau, but they may start rising again soon.*

plate glass /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] fine clear glass made in large, quite thick sheets for use esp. in shop windows –**plate-glass** *adj* [A]

plate·lay·er /ˈpleɪtˌleɪəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **tracklayer** *AmE–* *n* a workman who builds or repairs railway tracks

plate·let /ˈpleɪtlˌət/ *n* any of the very small plate-shaped cells in the blood that help to make it go solid when bleeding takes place

plate rack /ˈ· ·/ *n* a frame for storing plates, or where plates, cups, etc., are put to dry after washing –see picture at RACK

plate tec·ton·ics /ˈpleɪt tekˌtɒnɪks‖-ˌtɑːn-/ *n* [U] the study of the formation, movement, and destruction of the plates which form the surface of the earth under the ocean, and on which the land rests

plat·form[1] /ˈplætfɔːm‖-fɔːrm/ *n* **1** a raised flat surface built along the side of the track at a railway station for travellers getting on or off a train: *The Edinburgh train will depart from platform six.* **2 a** a tall or high structure built so that people can stand or work above the surrounding area: *an oil exploration platform in the sea.* | *They built a platform in the trees from which they could watch the animals unobserved.* **b** a raised floor or stage for speakers, performers, etc.: *This is the young pianist's first appearance on the concert platform.* | *Please address your remarks to the platform.* (=to the people on the platform) | (fig.) *Television should not provide a platform for terrorists' views.* (=a place where they can express their views publicly) **3** *BrE* the open part at the end of a DOUBLE-DECKER bus, where passengers enter and leave. Open platforms are increasingly being replaced by double doors. **4** [*usu. sing.*] the main ideas and aims of a political party, esp. as stated before an election: *What will be the main plank* (=principle or promise) *in your party's platform?*

platform[2] *adj* [A] (of a shoe or part of a shoe) unusually high because of an additional thickness of material: *platform soles*

Plath /plæθ/, **Syl·vi·a** /ˈsɪlviə/ (1932–63) an American poet, famous for poems about women and about death, and for her NOVEL (=story) *The Bell Jar*. She killed herself after many years of unhappiness.

plat·i·num /ˈplætˌnəm/ *n* [U] a greyish-white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT) that does not become dirty or impure and is used esp. in very valuable jewellery and in chemical industries: *a platinum ring* | *This ring is (made of) platinum.*

platinum blonde /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n infml* a young woman having light silver-grey hair, often not natural but coloured with chemicals –compare PEROXIDE BLONDE

plat·i·tude /ˈplætˌtjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n derog* a statement that is true but not new, interesting, or clever: *a very uninspiring speech full of platitudes* –compare CLICHE, COMMONPLACE[2] –**-tudinous** /ˌplætˌˈtjuːdˌnəs‖-ˈtuː-/ *adj*

Pla·to /ˈpleɪtəʊ/ (427–347 BC) a Greek think (PHILOSOPHER) who explained his ideas in the form of written conversations. His most famous work is the *Republic*, about the perfect state and form of government.

pla·ton·ic /plәˈtɒnɪk‖-ˈtɑː-/ *adj* (of a relationship between a man and woman) just friendly, not sexual – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pla·toon /plәˈtuːn/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a small group of soldiers which is part of a COMPANY and is commanded by a LIEUTENANT

plat·ter /ˈplætәʳ/ *n* **1** *AmE for* a large PLATE[1] (1) **2** *old use* a flat dish, usu. made of wood **3** *AmE infml* RECORD[2] (4): *Your favourite DJ will be spinning the platters from 4 to 6 this afternoon.*

plat·y·pus /ˈplætˌpәs/ also **duckbilled platypus**– *n* a small furry Australian animal that has a beak and feet like a duck's, lays eggs, and gives milk to its young

plau·dit /ˈplɔːdˌət/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml or pomp* praise: *Her performance won/earned the plaudits of the critics.* (=they praised it)

plau·si·ble /ˈplɔːzəbəl/ *adj often derog* **1** (of a statement, argument, etc.) seeming to be true or reasonable: *Your explanation sounds plausible, but I'm not sure I believe it.* —compare FEASIBLE **2** (of a person) skilled in producing statements that seem reasonable, but which may not be true: *a plausible rogue* —opposite **implausible** —**-bly** *adv* —**-bility** /ˌplɔːzəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

play[1] /pleɪ/ *n* **1** [U] activity for amusement only, esp. among children: *the happy laughter of children* **at play** | *She only did it* **in play – she didn't really mean it.** **2** [C] a piece of writing (to be) performed by actors in a theatre or on television or radio: *one of Shakespeare's best-known plays* | *He has written a new TV play.* | *The college drama society are going to put on* (=perform) *a play.* **3** [U] the action in a sport: *We've had an interesting day's play in the cricket match.* | *Rain stopped play.* | *unfair play* **4** [U] *fml* the state of being in effect or operation: *He had to* **bring** *all his experience* **into play** (=use all his experience) *to beat this difficult opponent.* | *Now that television has become important in elections, a new set of circumstances has* **come into play**. **5** [U] freedom of movement given by slight looseness: *There's too much play in the steering wheel.* | (fig.) *He gave full/free play to his feelings and began to shout angrily.* **6** [S] an act intended to bring about a particular result: *He decided to* **make a play for** *the girl.* (=to try to attract her) **7** [(*the*) S] *esp. lit* light, quick, not lasting movement: *the play of sunshine and shadow among the trees* **8 in/into/out of play** (of the ball in football, cricket, etc.) in/into/not in a position where the rules of the game allow it to be played: *The defender kicked the ball out of play.* —see also CHILD'S PLAY, FAIR PLAY; see RECREATION (USAGE)

play[2] *v* **1** [I (**with**)] (esp. of children) to amuse oneself with a game, using toys, running and jumping, etc.: *Can Bob come out to play (with me)?* | *The children were playing with their train set.* **2** [I;T (**on, for, to**)] **a** to produce sounds (from): *The radio was playing very loudly.* | *He just sits in his room playing records on his stereo.* **b** to perform (a piece of music) on (a musical instrument): *A world-famous violinist is playing at tonight's concert.* | *She plays the piano well.* | *He'd written a tune, and played it for/to us on the piano.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *He played us a tune on the piano.* **3** [I;T (**against, for**)] to take part in (a sport or game): *Our best defender is injured and won't be able to play today.* | *He plays cricket for England.* | *Can you play chess?* | *England are playing France* (=playing against them) *at football tomorrow.* **4** [T (**on**)] to plan and carry out for one's own amusement or gain: *They played a joke on me.* | (fig.) *I thought my eyes must be* **playing tricks on** *me.* (=deceiving me) **5** [I+*adv/prep*;T] **a** (of an actor or theatre group) to perform (in): *(The part of) Othello was played by Olivier.* | *Olivier is playing in "Othello" at the National Theatre.* | (fig.) *The United States played a key role in getting the hostages released.* **b** (of a play or film) to be performed or shown: *"Gone with the Wind" is playing at the Odeon.* **6** [L] to pretend to be: *She likes to play the great lady.* (=behave in a very grand way) | *The children are playing doctors and nurses.* | *He played dead.* | (fig.) *You're always* **playing the fool**. (=behaving in a silly way) **7** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to hit and send (a ball): *She played the ball just over the net.* **8** [T] to place (a playing card) face upwards on the table: *Shall I play my jack or my queen?* **9** [I+*adv/prep*] *often lit* to move quickly, irregularly, or continuously: *A smile played across her lips.* | *She watched the sunlight playing on the water.* **10** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to aim or direct, esp. continuously: *The firemen played their hoses on the burning buildings.* **11** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *infml* to deal with; handle: *"I don't know how you want to play this meeting." "It could be rather tricky, so we'd better play it carefully."* **12 play ball** *infml* to agree to do what someone else has suggested; COOPERATE: *We wanted to get the union's agreement on the new procedures, but they wouldn't play ball (with us).* **13 play for time** to cause delay, in order to gain more time **14 play hard to get** *infml* to pretend one is not sexually interested in someone in order to make them more interested **15 play hooky/hookey** —see HOOKY **16 play into someone's hands** to behave in a way that gives someone an advantage over one **17 play it again, Sam** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from the film *Casablanca*, now used humorously when asking someone to play a piece of music again **18 play it by ear** to act according to changing conditions, rather than making fixed plans in advance **19 play it cool** *infml* to behave in a calm and unexcited way; not lose one's temper **20 play (it) safe** *infml* to act in such a way that one has the best chance of avoiding trouble: *It may not rain, but you'd better play (it) safe and take a raincoat.* **21 play one's cards right/properly** *infml* to use well whatever chances, conditions, facts, etc., one has: *If you play your cards right you could make a nice little profit out of this job.* **22 play the devil with** to do a lot of harm to: *Snow storms are playing the devil with food deliveries to the area.* **23 play the field** *infml, esp. AmE* to have social and perhaps sexual relations with more than one partner of the opposite sex **24 play the game** *infml* to be fair, honest, and honourable **25 play the market** to buy and sell business shares in order to try to make money **26 play to the gallery** to do what will please most people in order to gain popularity, even if it is not the most sensible course of action

play about/around *phr v* [I] **1** to spend time having fun **2** [(**with**)] to have a non-serious sexual relationship: *He's always playing around with other men's wives.*

play along *phr v* **1** [I (**with**)] to pretend to agree (with someone or someone's ideas), esp. so as to gain an advantage or avoid trouble **2** [T] (**play** sbdy. **along**) to deceive (someone) by making them think one is soon going to do something for them

play at sthg. *phr v* [T+*obj/v-ing*] **1** (of children) to pretend to be or do for fun: *little boys playing at (being) soldiers* **2** to do in a way that is not very serious: *His parents are so rich that he can just play at business/at being a businessman.* | (showing annoyance or impatience) *What (the hell) do you think you're playing at? – You can't change a wheel that way!*

play sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] to play (something that has just been recorded on a machine) so as to listen to it or look at it —see also PLAYBACK

play sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to make (something) seem less important: *The government is trying to play down its role in the affair.* (=trying to make it seem that it did not take an important part in it) —opposite **play up**

play sbdy. **in** *phr v* [T] to get (oneself) used to playing at the beginning of a game: *I need a few more minutes to play myself in.* | (fig.) *She's still playing herself into her new job as sales director.*

play off *phr v* **1** [T (**against**)] (**play** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off**) to set (people or things) in opposition, esp. for one's own advantage: *She played her two boyfriends off (against each other).* **2** [I] to play another match in order to decide who wins: *The losing semifinalists will play off for third place.* —see also PLAY-OFF

play on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to try to use or encourage (esp. the feelings of others) for one's own advantage; EXPLOIT: *This film about handicapped people is just playing on people's sympathy.*

play sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to continue (a game or struggle) until a result is gained: *Shall we call it a draw, or play it out?* —see also PLAYED OUT

play up *phr v* **1** [T] (**play** sthg. ↔ **up**) to give special importance to; EMPHASIZE: *In the interview you should play up your experience of working abroad.* —opposite **play down** **2** [I;T (=**play** sbdy. ↔ **up**)] to cause trouble or suffering (to): *My bad leg has been playing up again.*

play up to sbdy. *phr v* [T] *often derog* to behave so as to win the favour of: *She's always playing up to the boss.*

play with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to consider (an idea) not very seriously: *She's been playing with the idea of starting her own business.* **2 play with oneself** *euph for* MASTURBATE **3 to play with** that one can use; AVAILABLE: *We haven't got a lot of time to play with, so we'd better hurry up.* —see also PLAY[2] (1), **play with fire** (FIRE[1])

play·a·ble /ˈpleɪəbəl/ *adj* **1** (of a piece of ground used for sports) fit to be played on —see also UNPLAYABLE **2** (of music) not too difficult to be played

play-act /ˈ· ·/ *v* [I] *often derog* to behave in a non-serious way, esp. by pretending things that are not true – **~ing** *n* [U]

play·back /ˈpleɪbæk/ also **replay**– *n* a recording of something heard or seen, esp. on television, that is played at once after it is made, so that one can study it carefully: *a video playback machine* —see also PLAY **back**

play·boy /ˈpleɪbɔɪ/ *n sometimes derog* a wealthy man who lives a life of expensive pleasure, doing no work. Playboys are thought of as enjoying fast cars and the company of many beautiful women: *a middle-aged playboy* | *his playboy lifestyle*

Playboy a magazine for men which has serious articles but is known esp. for its pictures of women wearing very few clothes and its articles on sex

Play-Doh /ˈpleɪ dəʊ/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of play dough

play dough /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* a soft clay-like substance which children use to make brightly coloured models

played-out /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** having lost one's former powers, ability, etc. **2** *derog* of no further use; old-fashioned: *played-out ideas* —see also PLAY **out**

play·er /ˈpleɪəʳ/ *n* **1** a person taking part in a game or sport **2** a person playing a musical instrument **3** *esp. old use or pomp* an actor —see also RECORD PLAYER

player pi·an·o /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ also **Pianola** *tdmk*— *n* a piano that is played by machinery, the music being controlled by a continuous roll of paper (**piano roll**) with holes cut into it for the notes

Play·er's /ˈpleɪəz‖-ərz/ *tdmk* the name of a kind of cigarette

play·fel·low /ˈpleɪˌfeləʊ/ *n BrE* a PLAYMATE

play·ful /ˈpleɪfəl/ *adj* **1** happily active; full of fun: *a playful little dog* **2** not intended seriously: *a playful kiss on the cheek* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

play·go·er /ˈpleɪˌgəʊəʳ/ *n* a person who goes to see plays, esp. regularly

play·ground /ˈpleɪgraʊnd/ *n* **1** a piece of ground kept for children to play on, esp. at a school or in a park. Playgrounds in parks usu. contain SWINGS, ROUNDABOUTS and slides. —compare PLAYING FIELD **2** an area where esp. the stated people go for enjoyment: *The South of France is the playground of the rich.* **3** *AmE for* RECREATION GROUND

play·group /ˈpleɪgruːp/ also **pre-school playgroup, playschool**— *n esp. BrE* a group in which children aged 2–5 meet to learn through playing. Playgroups started in Britain in the 1960s because the British government did not provide many schools for children this age: *Robert's at playgroup today.* —compare CRECHE, NURSERY, NURSERY SCHOOL and see also extra information on page 408

play·house /ˈpleɪhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ **1** (*often cap. as part of a name*) a theatre: *the Oxford Playhouse* **2** a hut built to look like a small house, for children to play in

playing card /ˈ·· ·/ *n fml for* CARD³ (1)

playing field /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large piece of ground with particular areas marked out for playing such games as football and cricket

play·mate /ˈpleɪmeɪt/ also **playfellow** *BrE*— *n old-fash* a friend who shares in children's games and play: *The little boy's chief playmate was his dog.* | *We were childhood playmates.*

play-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* a second match played to decide who wins, when the first has not done so —compare RUN-OFF; see also PLAY² **off** (2)

play on words /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **plays on words** [*usu. sing.*] a PUN¹

play·pen /ˈpleɪpen/ *n* a frame enclosed by bars or a net and placed on the floor for a small child to play safely in

play·room /ˈpleɪrʊm, -ruːm/ *n* a room for children to play in

play·school /ˈpleɪskuːl/ *n BrE* a PLAYGROUP

play·thing /ˈpleɪˌθɪŋ/ *n* **1** *fml* a toy **2** *esp. lit* a person who is treated without seriousness or consideration by another: *He was just her plaything.* | *Are we the playthings of fate?* (=Are we not free to decide our own actions?)

play·time /ˈpleɪtaɪm/ *n* [U] a (short) period of time, esp. at a school, when children can go out to play

play·wright /ˈpleɪraɪt/ *n* a writer of plays

pla·za /ˈplɑːzə‖ˈplæzə/ *n* **1** a public square or marketplace, esp. in towns in Spanish-speaking countries **2** a group of shops and other COMMERCIAL buildings in a town: *a shopping plaza*

Plaza [*the*] a common name for a cinema, esp. in the past

plc /ˌpiː el ˈsiː/ *abbrev. for:* PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY: *Marks & Spencer plc* —compare INC, LIMITED (2)

plea /pliː/ *n* **1** [C (**for**)] *fml* an urgent or serious request: *a plea for mercy/forgiveness* **2** [C (**of**) *usu. sing.*] *law* a statement by someone in a court of law, saying whether or not they are guilty of a charge: *The accused* **entered a plea** *of "not guilty".* **3** [S] *rare* an excuse: *She left early on the plea of having a headache.*

plea bar·gain·ing /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* [U] the practice of agreeing to say in a court of law that one is guilty of a small crime in exchange for not being charged with a greater one

plead /pliːd/ *v* **pleaded** *or* **pled** /pled/ *esp. ScotE & AmE*— **1** [I (**for**)] to ask very strongly and seriously and in a begging way: *They wept and pleaded until we agreed to do as they wished.* | *She pleaded for more time to pay.* [+**with**+*to-v*] *He pleaded with them to release his daughter.* **2** [T] to give as an excuse for an action: *I'm sorry I didn't answer your letter — I can only plead forgetfulness.* **3** [I] *law* to answer a charge in court: *The woman charged with murder was said to be mad and unfit to plead.* **4** [T *no pass.*] *law* to declare in official language that one is (in a state of): *"Prisoner at the bar, how do you plead?" "I plead not guilty."* | *He pleaded insanity in the hope of getting a shorter sentence.* **5** [T] to speak or argue in support of: *The poor and unemployed have no one to plead their case for them.* —see also SPECIAL PLEADING

pleas·ant /ˈplezənt/ *adj* **1** giving one a feeling of enjoyment or happiness: *What a pleasant surprise!* | *a flower with a pleasant smell* **2** (esp. of a person) likeable; friendly: *She seems a pleasant woman.* | *I know you're annoyed, but please make an effort to be pleasant to him.* | *a pleasant smile* **3** (of weather) fine: *It's quite pleasant today, though the wind is rather cool.* —opposite **unpleasant** —~**ly** *adv*

pleas·ant·ry /ˈplezəntri/ *n fml* an amusing or not very serious remark made esp. in order to be polite: *They exchanged the usual pleasantries before getting down to discussing business.*

please¹ /pliːz/ *v* [*not in progressive forms*] **1** [I;T] to make (someone) happy; give satisfaction (to): *The girl in the shop is always eager to please (everyone).* | *I didn't want it myself; I only got it to please you.* | *He wasn't at all pleased* (=was angry) *when he found out.* | *There's no pleasing some people.* (=It is impossible to satisfy certain people.) —opposite **displease** **2** [I+*adv/prep*] (not as the main verb of a sentence) to want; like: *You can have wine, beer, fruit juice — whichever you please.* | *He just does what he pleases and never thinks about anyone else.* | *They can appoint whoever they please.* **3 if you please**: **a** *fml* (used to give force after a request) PLEASE² (1): *Come this way, if you please.* **b** *old-fash* can you believe this?: *He's broken my bicycle, and now, if you please, he wants me to get it mended so that he can use it again!* **4 please God** *fml* I hope: *Please God they'll all return safely.* **5 please oneself: a** to do whatever one likes, without having to obey others: *We don't have to be back in the hotel by a certain time; we can just please ourselves.* **b** [*imperative*] *infml* (esp. showing annoyance) Do whatever you like, it doesn't matter to me

please² *interj* **1** (used when asking politely for something). It is considered rude not to say "please" if one does not know the other person very well indeed: *A cup of tea, please.* | *Can we go now, please?* **2** (used to give force to a request or wish): *Please, sir, I don't understand!* | *Will you please keep quiet!* **3** *usu.* **yes, please**— yes I accept and am grateful: *"Would you like a cup of coffee?" "Please, I'd love one."*

pleased /pliːzd/ *adj* **1** [(**with, about**)] happy or satisfied: *I always feel pleased when I've finished a piece of work.* | *She had a pleased look on her face.* | *Are you pleased with your new car?* (=is it satisfactory) | *"She's given up that boyfriend of hers." "I'm pleased about that."* [+(*that*)] *I'm very pleased you've decided to come.* [+*to-v*] *We were pleased to hear about your new job.* | *"(I'm) pleased to meet you."* (=said when meeting someone for the first time) **2 be pleased to (do something)**: **a** *polite* to be very willing to; be glad to: *We will be pleased to offer any assistance you need.* **b** *fml* to have decided (as an act of favour) to: *The Queen is graciously pleased to invite you to next month's garden party.* **3 pleased with oneself** *often derog* (too) satisfied with what one has done: *He was looking very pleased with himself so I guessed he'd passed his driving test.*

pleas·ing /ˈpliːzɪŋ/ *adj* [(**to**)] *fml or pomp* **1** likeable; giving delight or enjoyment; pleasant: *a pleasing young man* | *This wine is most pleasing to the taste.* **2** giving satisfaction: *We have made pleasing progress in our talks.* —~**ly** *adv*

plea·sur·a·ble /ˈpleʒərəbəl/ *adj fml* enjoyable: *I trust that you had a pleasurable journey.* —**-bly** *adv* : *feeling pleasurably mellow after a good meal*

plea·sure /ˈpleʒəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] the state or feeling of happiness or satisfaction resulting from an experience that one enjoys: *small gifts that give a lot of pleasure and don't cost much | how to get more pleasure out of sex | It gave me no pleasure to have to tell them they were fired; I* **take no pleasure in** (=do not enjoy) *such things.* —opposite **displeasure** **2** [U] doing things for fun rather than as work: *Are you here on business or for pleasure? | a pleasure cruise* **3** [C] a cause of happiness, enjoyment, or satisfaction: *It's been a great pleasure to talk to you. | Some old people have very few pleasures in life.* **4** [S (**of**)] *polite* enjoyment gained by doing or having something: *May I* **have the pleasure of** *the next dance with you? | I had the pleasure of meeting your parents yesterday.* **5** [S] *polite* something that is not inconvenient and that one is happy to do; an expression often used to be polite even if the speaker is not happy: *"Thank you for helping me." "My pleasure|It was a pleasure."* **6** [S] *fml or polite* desire; wish: *These arrangements can be changed* **at your pleasure**. (=as you wish or decide) | *Is it your pleasure that I sign the minutes of the last meeting as correct?* **7 during his/her majesty's pleasure** *BrE law* with no fixed limit on the time one is kept in prison **8 with pleasure** *polite* willingly: *"Would you take this along to the office for me?" "With pleasure."*

pleasure beach /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a place of outdoor entertainment at the seaside, with large machines to ride on and other amusements —compare FAIR

pleasure seek·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* somebody who does something for enjoyment without considering other people

pleat[1] /pliːt/ *n* a flattened narrow fold in cloth

pleat[2] *v* [T] to make pleats in: *a pleated skirt*

pleb /pleb/ *n* [*often pl.*] *infml derog* a member of the lower social classes —~**by** *adj*

plebe /pliːb/ *n AmE infml* a first-year student at a military or naval college or university

ple·be·ian /plɪˈbiːən/ *n, adj* **1** *derog* (a member) of the lower social classes: *plebeian tastes in food* **2** (in ancient Rome) (a member) of the common people —compare PATRICIAN

pleb·is·cite /ˈplebəsəɪt‖-saɪt/ *n* a direct vote of the people of a country to decide a matter of national importance: *The choice of whether to join the federation was decided by plebiscite.* —compare REFERENDUM

plec·trum /ˈplektrəm/ also **pick** *BrE infml BrE*‖**pick** *AmE*— *n* a small thin piece of plastic, metal, etc. held between the fingers and used for playing certain stringed instruments, such as the GUITAR, by quickly pulling at the strings

pled /pled/ *ScotE & AmE past tense & participle of* PLEAD

pledge[1] /pledʒ/ *n* **1** [C] (esp. in newspapers) a solemn promise or agreement: [+*to-v*] *They made a firm pledge to support us. | an election pledge to reduce taxes* [+*that*] *The government has given a pledge that it will halt the bombing.* **2** [C (**of**)] something given or received as a sign of faithful love or friendship: *Take this ring as a pledge of our friendship.* **3** [C] something valuable left with someone else as proof that one will fulfil an agreement: *She borrowed £50 and left her gold bracelet as a pledge.* **4 sign/take the pledge** *old-fash* to promise never to drink alcohol

pledge[2] *v* [T] **1** (esp. in newspapers) to make a solemn promise of: *They have pledged their support for our case.| The firm has most generously pledged* (=promised to give) *£10,000 as its contribution to the charity. | a nation pledging allegiance* (=loyalty) *to the flag* [+*to-v*] *The government pledged to re-house the refugees.* [+*that*] *They have pledged that any details given to them will remain confidential.* **2** [(**to**)] *fml* to make (someone) give a solemn promise: *I was pledged to secrecy.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *They pledged themselves never to tell the secret.* **3** [(**for**)] *rare* to leave (something) with someone as a PLEDGE[1] (3)

Pledge of Al·le·giance /ˌ· · ·ˈ··/ [*the*] a solemn promise to respect and be loyal to the United States of America. Most schoolchildren in the US say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning while putting their hands over their hearts and facing the flag.

Plei·a·des /ˈplaɪədiːz‖ˈpliː-/ [*the* +P] **1** a group of stars in the CONSTELLATION Taurus **2** in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the seven daughters of Atlas who were changed into stars by Zeus

pleis·to·cene /ˈplaɪstəsiːn/ *adj* of the period in the Earth's history which started about 1,000,000 years ago and lasted about 800,000 years, when much of the Earth was covered with ice

ple·na·ry /ˈpliːnəri/ *adj* [*no comp.*] *fml or tech* **1** (of a meeting) attended by everyone who has the right to attend: *Will you be at the* **plenary session** *of the conference?* **2** (of power of government) complete; without limit: *The envoy was given* **plenary powers** *to negotiate with the rebels.*

plen·i·po·ten·tia·ry /ˌplenɨpəˈtenʃəri‖-ʃieri/ *n, adj fml or tech* (someone) having full power to take action or make decisions, esp. as a representative of their government in a foreign country: [after *n*] *a minister plenipotentiary*

plen·i·tude /ˈplenɨtjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n* [U] *pomp* **1** completeness; fullness **2** plenty; a great amount

plen·te·ous /ˈplentiəs/ *adj esp. poet* plentiful: *a plenteous harvest* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

plen·ti·ful /ˈplentɪfəl/ *adj* (more than) enough in quantity: *a plentiful supply of cheap fuel* —~**ly** *adv* : *a cupboard plentifully stocked with food*

plen·ty[1] /ˈplenti/ *pron often apprec* a large quantity or number; enough or more than enough: *"Do you need any more money?" "No, we have £100 and that's plenty." | Make sure there is plenty (of food) for everyone. | If you want some chairs, there are plenty more in here. | I gave the boys plenty to eat. | Plenty of foreign firms have set up factories here. | There's plenty of room for everyone inside.* —compare FEW, LOT[1] (1)

plenty[2] *n* [U] *fml* **1** the state of having a large supply of something, esp. of what is needed for life: *In years of plenty everyone has enough to eat.* **2 in plenty** in large supply; enough: *It was boom time, and there was work in plenty for everyone.* —see also HORN OF PLENTY

plenty[3] *adv infml* **1** quite: *There's no need to add any more – it's plenty big enough already.* **2** *AmE infml* to quite a large degree; very: *I'm plenty hungry, you guys.*

ple·o·nasm /ˈpliːənæzəm/ *n* [C;U] *tech* (a) use of more words than are needed to express an idea: *The phrase "an apple divided into two halves" is a pleonasm.* —**-nastic** /ˌpliə ˈnæstɪk◂/ *adj*

Ples·sy vs. Fer·gu·son /ˌplesi vɜːsəs ˈfɜːgəsən‖-vɜːrsəs ˈfɜːr-/ *law* (the court case which resulted in) a decision by the American SUPREME COURT in 1896 that SEGREGATION (=separation) of blacks from whites was legal, as long as they were given SEPARATE BUT EQUAL services. The decision related specifically to segregation on trains, but led in some states to separate schools, hotels, restaurants, seats in theatres, buses, etc. The Plessy vs. Ferguson decision was changed in 1955 by BROWN VS BOARD OF EDUCATION OF TOPEKA. —see also CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

pleth·o·ra /ˈpleθərə/ *n* [S (**of**)] *fml* an amount or supply much greater than is needed or than one can deal with: *a plethora of suggestions | a plethora of classical music on the radio*

pleu·ri·sy /ˈplʊərɨsi/ *n* [U] a disease of the thin inner covering of the chest that surrounds the lungs, causing pain in the chest and sides

plex·i·glass /ˈpleksiˌglɑːs‖-ˌglæs/ *n* [U] *tdmk, AmE for* PERSPEX

pli·a·ble /ˈplaɪəbəl/ *adj* **1** easily bent without breaking: *pliable metal* **2** able and willing to change or to accept new ways and ideas; ADAPTABLE **3** *usu. derog* easily influenced; pliant —**-bility** /ˌplaɪəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

pli·ant /ˈplaɪənt/ *adj* **1** *usu. derog* easily influenced; accepting the wishes or commands of others **2** PLIABLE (1,2) —~**ly** *adv* —**-ancy** *n* [U]

pli·ers /ˈplaɪəz‖-ərz/ *n* [P] a small tool made of two crossed pieces of metal with long flat jaws at one end, used to hold small things or to bend and cut wire —compare PINCERS; see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at TOOL

plight[1] /plaɪt/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a (bad, serious, or sad) condition or situation: *We are all moved by the plight of these poor homeless children.*

plight[2] *v* **plight one's troth** *old use* to make a promise of marriage

plim·soll /ˈplɪmsəl, -səʊl/ also **gymshoe** *BrE* ‖ **sneaker** *AmE*— *n* a light shoe with a top made of heavy cloth and a flat rubber bottom, used esp. for games and sports — see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at SHOE

Plimsoll line /ˈ·· ·/ also **Plimsoll mark**– *n* a line painted on the outside of a ship showing the depth to which it can be allowed to go down in the water when loaded

plinth /plɪnθ/ *n* a square block, usu. of stone, which forms the base of a PILLAR or STATUE

Plin·y the El·der /ˌplɪni ði ˈeldəʳ/ (23–79 AD) a Roman writer on the study of plants, animals, and minerals

Pliny the Young·er /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ (72?–?113) a Roman politician known for his letters, which give a picture of Roman life in his time

pli·o·cene /ˈplaɪəsiːn/ *adj* of the period in the Earth's history which started about 13,000,000 years ago and lasted about 12,000,000 years

PLO /ˌpiː el ˈəʊ/ [*the*] the Palestine Liberation Organization; a political association of Palestinians who believe that the Israeli controlled land that used to be Palestine should be returned to them

plod /plɒd‖plɑːd/ *v* **-dd-** **1** [I+*adv/prep*] to walk slowly along, esp. with difficulty and great effort; TRUDGE: *The carthorse plodded along/plodded up the hill pulling the load behind it.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. AWAY, ON] to work steadily, esp. at something uninteresting: *She plods away quietly in her corner.* | *I'll plod on* (=continue to work) *for another hour and then take a break.*

Plod, P.C. *BrE* a name used in jokes and CARTOONS for an old-fashioned British policeman who is not very clever

plod·der /ˈplɒdəʳ‖ˈplɑː-/ *n usu. derog* a slow, not very clever, but steady worker who often succeeds in the end

plonk[1] /plɒŋk‖plɑːŋk, plɔːŋk/ *n* [S] *infml* a sound like something dropping onto or into a metal object –**plonk** *adv* [+*prep*] : *It fell plonk onto the floor.*

plonk[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *infml* to put, esp. heavily or with force: *Just plonk those parcels down over there.* | *She plonked herself in the chair and refused to move.*

plonk[3] *n* [U] *infml, esp. BrE & Austr E* cheap wine

plop[1] /plɒp‖plɑːp/ *n* [S] *infml* a sound like something solid dropping smoothly into liquid: *There was a loud plop as the soap fell into the bath.* –**plop** *adv* [+*prep*] : *The soap fell plop into the bath.*

plop[2] *v* **-pp-** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **into**] *infml* to fall with or make a plop: *The stone plopped into the stream.*

plo·sive /ˈpləʊsɪv/ *adj, n tech* (a consonant sound such as /t/or /g/) made by stopping the air completely and then suddenly letting it out of the mouth

plot[1] /plɒt‖plɑːt/ *n* **1** the set of connected events on which a story, play, film, etc., is based: *The plot was so complicated that I couldn't follow it.* **2** a secret plan to do something harmful, needing combined action by several people: *an IRA bomb plot* [+to-v] *The police have uncovered a plot to assassinate the president.* **3** a small marked or measured piece of ground for building or growing things: *I grow potatoes on my little plot of land.* | *a vegetable plot* **4** *AmE for* GROUND PLAN **5 the plot thickens** *humor* a phrase used when events seem to be becoming more difficult to understand

plot[2] *v* **-tt-** **1** [I (**against**);T] (of a group of people) to make a secret plan for (something harmful): *They're plotting against him.* | *They're plotting his murder.* [+*to-v*] *They're plotting to kill him.* **2** [T] to mark, calculate, or follow (the position of a moving aircraft or ship) on a map or using RADAR: *The captain plotted a new course.* **3** [T] to draw (a line or curve showing certain facts) on paper marked with small squares: *We've plotted (a graph showing) the increase in sales this year.* **4** [T (OUT)] to make a PLOT[1] (1) for (a story) – ~**ter** *n* [*usu. pl.*]

plough[1] ‖ usu. **plow** *AmE* /plaʊ/ *n* a farming tool with a heavy cutting blade for breaking up and turning over the earth in fields, esp. so that seeds can be planted: *Ploughs are pulled by tractors, or in some countries by oxen.* –see also SNOWPLOUGH

plough[2] ‖ usu. **plow** *AmE*– *v* **1** [I;T (UP)] to break up or turn over (land) with a plough: *Farmers plough (their fields) in autumn or spring.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to force a way or make a track, sometimes violently: *The great ship ploughed across the ocean.* | *The van's brakes failed, and it ploughed into a crowd of people.* | (fig.) *He ploughed through the book to the end.* (=He finished the book although it was dull and difficult to read.) **3 We plough the fields and scatter** the first line of a religious song sung at Harvest Festival to celebrate the gathering in of the year's crops

plough sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T (**into**)] to put (money earned) back into a business so as to make the business more successful: *They ploughed the profits back into the firm in order to buy new equipment.*

Plough *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **Big Dipper** *AmE*– [*the*] a group of seven bright stars (=CONSTELLATION) seen only from the northern part of the world

plough·boy /ˈplaʊbɔɪ/ *n* (esp. in former times) a boy who leads a horse pulling a plough

plough·man /ˈplaʊmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ a man whose job is to guide a plough, esp. of the type pulled by animals

plough·man's lunch /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **ploughman's**– *n BrE* a simple midday meal, usu. bread, cheese, and onion eaten in a PUB

plough·share /ˈplaʊʃeəʳ/ also **share**– *n* the broad curved metal blade of a plough which turns over the soil

plov·er /ˈplʌvəʳ/ *n* **plovers** *or* **plover** a type of small bird that usu. lives near the sea

plow /plaʊ/ *n, v AmE for* PLOUGH

ploy /plɔɪ/ *n* something done in order to gain an often unfair advantage; TACTIC: *His usual ploy is to pretend to be ill, so that people will feel sorry for him.* | *The offer was widely viewed as a management ploy to weaken support for the union among the workforce.*

PLR /ˌpiː el ˈɑːʳ/ *abbrev. for:* PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT

pluck[1] /plʌk/ *v* **1** [T] to pull the feathers off (a dead hen, duck, etc., being prepared for cooking) **2** [T (OUT, **from, off**)] to pull (esp. something unwanted) out sharply: *Do you pluck your eyebrows?* (=remove hairs to improve their shape) | *She tried to pluck out some of her grey hairs.* | (fig.) *He was plucked from obscurity to star in the new musical.* **3** [I(**at**);T] ‖ also **pick** *AmE*– *to play (a stringed instrument) by quickly pulling (the strings)* **4** [T] *esp. poet* to pick (a flower, fruit, or leaf): *He plucked a rose for his lover.*

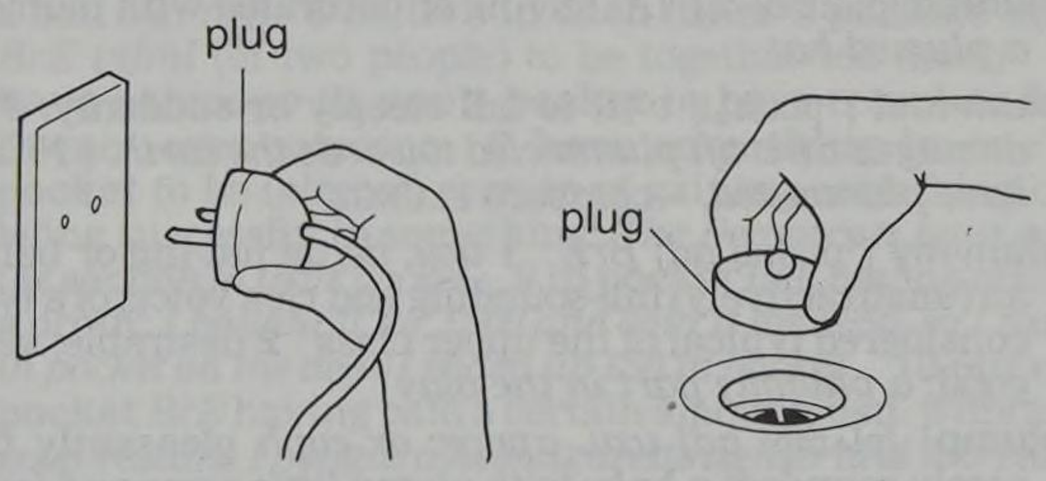
pluck at sthg. *phr v* [T] to pull quickly and repeatedly with the fingers: *The little boy plucked at her sleeve to try and get her attention.*

pluck up *phr v* **pluck up (one's) courage** to show bravery in spite of fear: *He couldn't pluck up enough courage to ask her to go out with him.*

pluck[2] *n* [U] *infml apprec* courage and determination: *She showed a lot of pluck to leave a safe job and set up her own business.*

pluck·y /ˈplʌki/ *adj infml apprec* brave and determined, esp. in an unexpected way –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

plugs



plug[1] /plʌg/ *n* **1** a small usu. round piece of rubber, wood, metal, etc., used for blocking a hole, esp. in something that contains liquid: *She pulled the plug out of the bath and the dirty water ran away.* **2 a** a small plastic object with two or three metal pins that are pushed into an electric SOCKET to connect an apparatus with the electricity supply **b** *not tech* an electric SOCKET; POINT[1] (15) **3** *infml* a publicly stated favourable opinion about a record, a product, a book, etc., that is intended to make people want to buy it, hear it, read it, etc.: *The TV compere gave her new record a plug.* –see also PLUG[2] (2) **4** *infml for* SPARK PLUG **5 pull the plug on** *infml* to discontinue suddenly; prevent from continuing: *The government pulled the plug on the project when it became too expensive.*

plug[2] *v* **-gg-** [T] **1** [(UP)] to block, close, or fill with a PLUG[1] (1): *Use this wad of cloth to plug (the hole in) the barrel.* –opposite **unplug** **2** *infml* to advertise (something) by continually or repeatedly mentioning it: *He's been*

plugging his new book on the radio. **3** *AmE old-fash sl* to shoot (someone) with a gun

plug away at sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *infml* to work determinedly to complete (a difficult job)

plug sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to connect to a supply of electricity with a PLUG[1] (2a): *"The television doesn't work." "Have you plugged it in?"* –opposite **unplug**

plug into sthg. *phr v* [T] to gain the use of (a system) by making an electrical connection with it: *You can plug into the national computer network.*

plug·hole /ˈplʌghəʊl/ *BrE* ‖ **drain** *AmE*– *n* a hole into which a PLUG[1] (1) is fitted, esp. where water flows away

plum /plʌm/ *n* **1** [C] a roundish sweet juicy smooth-skinned fruit, usu. dark red or yellow, with a single hard nutlike STONE (=seed): *stewed plums | plum trees* –see picture at FRUIT **2** [C] *infml* something very desirable or the best of its kind, esp. a good or easy well-paid job: *This new job that he's got is a real plum. | She landed* (=got) *a* **plum job** *at the United Nations.* **3** [U] a dark reddish-blue colour

plum·age /ˈpluːmɪdʒ/ *n* [U] a bird's covering of feathers

plumb[1] /plʌm/ *v* [T] **1** to examine very carefully in order to try to fully understand: *Psychoanalysts plumb the deep mysteries of the human mind.* **2 plumb the depths (of)** to reach the lowest point (of): *This new play really plumbs the depths of unpleasantness.*

plumb sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] *esp. BrE* to fix in place and connect to a supply of water: *When's the man coming to plumb in the washing machine?*

plumb[2] *adv infml* **1** [+*adv*/*prep*] exactly: *The bullet hit him plumb between the eyes.* **2** *esp. AmE* completely: *He's just plumb stupid.*

plumb[3] *adj* [F] *tech* **1** exactly upright or level: *Is this wall plumb?* **2 out of plumb** not exactly upright

plumb·er /ˈplʌmər/ *n* a person whose job is to fit and repair water pipes, bathroom apparatus, etc.

plumber's friend /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **plumber's help·er** /ˌ·· ˈ··/– *n esp. AmE infml for* PLUNGER (1)

plumb·ing /ˈplʌmɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** all the water pipes, containers for storing water, etc., in a building: *an old house with noisy plumbing* **2** the work of a plumber

plumb line /ˈ· ·/ *n* a piece of string with a piece of lead tied to one end, used for measuring the depth of water or for finding out whether a wall is built exactly upright

plume[1] /pluːm/ *n* **1** [*usu. pl.*] a feather, esp. a large or showy one worn as a (ceremonial) decoration **2** [(**of**)] something that rises into the air in a shape rather like that of a feather: *a plume of smoke*

plume[2] *v* [T] (of a bird) to clean or make smooth (its feathers)

plumed /pluːmd/ *adj* [A] having or decorated with plumes: *a plumed hat*

plum·met /ˈplʌmɪt/ *v* [I] to fall steeply or suddenly: *The damaged aircraft plummeted towards the earth. | Prices have plummeted.* –compare PLUNGE

plum·my /ˈplʌmi/ *adj BrE* **1** *usu. derog* having or being an (unattractively) full-sounding and rich voice, of a type considered typical of the upper class **2** desirable; very good: *a plummy part in the play*

plump[1] /plʌmp/ *adj usu. apprec or euph* pleasantly fat; nicely rounded: *a baby with plump little arms and legs | a nice plump chicken in the butcher's window | I'm too plump to wear this dress.* –see FAT (USAGE) – ~**ness** *n* [U]

plump[2] *v*

plump (sthg./sbdy. ↔) **down** *phr v* [I;T (**in, on**)] *infml* to (cause to) fall suddenly, heavily, or carelessly: *She plumped (herself) down in a chair.*

plump for sthg. *phr v* [T] *BrE infml* to decide in favour of; choose: *We finally plumped for the red car rather than the black one.*

plump sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to make (esp. bed coverings) rounded and soft by shaking: *He plumped up the pillows.*

plum pud·ding /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] *BrE old-fash for* CHRISTMAS PUDDING

plun·der[1] /ˈplʌndər/ *v* [I (**from**);T] (esp. of an army, etc.) to take (things) by force and usu. violently from (a place) esp. in time of war or disorder: *They plundered the captured town|plundered all the valuable things they could find.* – ~**er** *n*

plunder[2] *n* [U] **1** (things taken in the course of) plundering **2** stolen goods; LOOT: *The thieves hid their plunder in the cave.*

plunge[1] /plʌndʒ/ *v* **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to (cause to) move or be thrown suddenly forwards and/or downwards: *The car suddenly stopped and he plunged forward|through the windscreen. | She fell from the cliff and plunged to her death. | We ran to the edge of the lake and plunged in. | He snatched off the lid and plunged his hand in. |* (fig.) *The price of oil has plunged to a new low.* – compare PRECIPITATE[1] (2) **2** [I] (of a ship) to move with the forward end going violently up and down: *The ship plunged dangerously in the rough sea.* **3** [I] (of the neck of a woman's garment) to have a low curve or V-shape that shows a quite large area of the chest: *a plunging neckline*

plunge into *phr v* [T] **1** (**plunge** (sthg.) **into** sbdy./sthg.) to push, jump, or rush suddenly or violently all the way into (something deep, thick, etc.): *He plunged into the water. | Firemen plunged into the burning building to rescue the child. | She plunged the knife into his back.* **2** (**plunge** sbdy./sthg. **into** sthg.) to bring or force suddenly into (the stated esp. unpleasant condition): *The room was plunged into darkness. | These dangerous policies could plunge Europe into a new war|plunge the country into chaos.* **3** (**plunge into** sthg.) to begin suddenly or hastily: *She plunged into a description of her latest illness.*

plunge[2] *n* [S] **1** an act of plunging, esp. head first into water **2 take the plunge** to decide on and do something determinedly, after having delayed through uncertainty or nervousness: *After going out together for two years, they decided to take the plunge and get married.*

plung·er /ˈplʌndʒər/ *n* **1** a rubber cup on the end of a handle, used for unblocking kitchen or bathroom pipes by means of SUCTION **2** a part of a machine that moves up and down

plu·per·fect /pluːˈpɜːfɪkt‖-ɜːr-/ *adj, n* [*the*+S] PAST PERFECT

plu·ral /ˈplʊərəl/ *n, adj* (a word or form) that expresses more than one: *"Dogs" is a plural noun. | "Dogs" is the plural of "dog" and "mice" is the plural of "mouse". | The third person plural, present tense, of the verb "have" is "they have".* –compare SINGULAR[1] (1)

plu·ral·is·m /ˈplʊərəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** *usu. apprec* the principle that people of different races, religions, and political beliefs can live together peacefully in the same society **2** *usu. derog* the holding of more than one job at a time, esp. in the Church –**-ist** *n, adj* –**-istic** /ˌplʊərəˈlɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

plu·ral·i·ty /plʊəˈrælɪti/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* (in grammar) the state of being plural **2** [S (**of**)] *tech, esp. AmE* the largest number of votes in an election, esp. when less than a MAJORITY

plus[1] /plʌs/ *prep* **1** made more by (the stated quantity); with the addition of: *3 plus 6 is 9.* (3+6=9) | *The cost is a pound plus 50 pence for postage.* –opposite **minus** **2** *infml* and also: *This work needs experience plus care.*

plus[2] *n* **1** also **plus sign** – a sign (+) showing that two or more numbers are to be added together, or that a number is greater than zero **2** *infml* a welcome or favourable addition; advantage: *Knowledge of French or Spanish could be a plus in this job.* –opposite **minus**

plus[3] *adj* **1** [A] (of a number or quantity) greater than zero **2** [A] *infml* additional and desirable: *Her previous experience in social work is a plus factor.* **3** [after *n*] and above (a stated number or mark): *All the children here are twelve plus.* (=are 12 or more years old) | *She earns $20,000 a year plus. | a B plus for my homework* –opposite **minus**

plus[4] *conj* in addition to this: *I've got to finish reading this book by Friday, plus I've got two essays to write!*

plus fours /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [P] trousers with loose wide legs drawn in to fit closely just below the knee, used esp. in former times in playing GOLF –see PAIR (USAGE)

plush[1] /plʌʃ/ also **plush·y** /ˈplʌʃi/– *adj infml, usu. apprec* seeming expensive, comfortable, and of good quality: *a plush hotel*

plush[2] *n* [U] silk or cotton cloth with a surface like short fur

plus sign /ˈ· ·/ *n* see PLUS² (1)

Plu·tarch /ˈpluːtɑːk‖-ɑːrk/ (46?–120 AD) a Greek writer who wrote about famous Greeks and Romans such as Julius Caesar

Plu·to¹ /ˈpluːtəʊ/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, the Greek god of the UNDERWORLD, Hades

Pluto² the most distant PLANET, ninth in order from the Sun —see picture at SOLAR SYSTEM

Pluto³ a dog in Walt Disney's CARTOONS for children

plu·toc·ra·cy /pluːˈtɒkrəsi‖-ˈtɑːk-/ *n* a ruling class of wealthy people

plu·to·crat /ˈpluːtəkræt/ *n* **1** someone who has power because of their wealth **2** *infml, often derog* a very rich person —~**ic** /ˌpluːtəˈkrætɪk◂/ *adj*

plu·to·ni·um /pluːˈtəʊniəm/ *n* [U] a simple substance (ELEMENT) that is used esp. in the production of atomic power

ply¹ /plaɪ/ *n* [U] (*usu. in comb.*) **1** a measure of the thickness of woollen thread, rope, etc., according to the number of single threads or lengths of material it is made from: *four-ply wool* **2** a measure of the thickness of plywood, according to the number of single thin sheets of wood it is made from: *three-ply wood*

ply² *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*] *esp. BrE* (esp. of a taxi driver) to drive around or wait at a particular place looking for passengers: *You won't find many taxis* **plying for hire** *at this time of night.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **between**;T] (of a taxi, bus, or esp. boat) to travel regularly (in or on): *This ship plies between London and Australia.* | *schooners plying the old trade routes* **3** [T] *lit or old use* **a** to work at (one's trade), esp. regularly: *the streets where flower-sellers once plied their trade* **b** to use or work steadily with (a tool): *She sat plying her needle.* (=sewing)

ply sbdy. **with** sthg. *phr v* [T] to keep supplying (someone) with (esp. food, drink, or questions): *They plied their guests with wine and snacks.* | *The children plied the teacher with questions.*

Plym·outh¹ /ˈplɪməθ/ a port and naval base in Devon, SW England

Plymouth² *tdmk* an American car made by Chrysler

Plymouth Breth·ren /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Brethren**– [*the*+P] a Christian religious organization which is opposed to religious ceremony and to having a group of priests. The Plymouth Brethren are also known for having a family life which is very correct according to severe moral rules.

Plymouth Col·o·ny /ˈ·· ˌ···/ the second permanent English settlement in America (the first was in JAMESTOWN, Virginia), in what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1620. The settlers were PURITANS who sailed on the ship *Mayflower* from Plymouth, England. Only half of them were still alive after the first winter in America, but they were then helped by the NATIVE AMERICANS and the settlement grew until Massachusetts was established. According to old stories, the settlers' first steps when they landed were on a large rock, today called **Plymouth Rock**. —see THANKSGIVING

Plymouth Rock /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a rock on the coast at **Plymouth**, Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims are said to have landed in 1620

ply·wood /ˈplaɪwʊd/ *n* [U] a material made of several thin sheets of wood stuck together to form a strong board

pm , PM /ˌpiː ˈem/ *abbrev. for:* post meridiem=(*Lat*) after midday (used after numbers expressing time): *the 8 pm (train) to London* —see also AM

P M /ˌpiː ˈem◂/ *n infml, esp. BrE for:* PRIME MINISTER: *an urgent meeting with the PM*

PMS /ˌpiː em ˈes/ *n* [U] *AmE abbrev. for:* PREMENSTRUAL SYNDROME —see PREMENSTRUAL TENSION

PMT /ˌpiː em ˈtiː/ *n* [U] *BrE abbrev. for:* PREMENSTRUAL TENSION

pneu·mat·ic /njuːˈmætɪk‖nʊ-/ *adj* **1** worked by air pressure: *a pneumatic pump* **2** containing air: *a pneumatic tyre* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pneumatic drill /·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **jackhammer** *esp. AmE*– *n* a powerful hand-held tool (a type of DRILL) that is worked by air pressure and is used for breaking up hard materials, esp. road surfaces —see picture at DRILL

pneu·mo·co·ni·o·sis /ˌnjuːməʊkəʊniˈəʊsɪs‖ˌnuː-/ *n* [U] a disease of the lungs caused by breathing in dust, powder, etc. —compare SILICOSIS

pneu·mo·ni·a /njuːˈməʊniə‖nʊ-/ *n* [U] a serious disease of the lungs with INFLAMMATION and difficulty in breathing: *You'll catch pneumonia if you go out in the snow without a coat!*

Po /pəʊ/ [*the*] the main river of N Italy

PO /ˌpiː ˈəʊ◂/ *abbrev. for:* **1** POST OFFICE **2** POSTAL ORDER **3** PETTY OFFICER

poach¹ /pəʊtʃ/ *v* [T] to cook (esp. eggs or fish) in gently boiling water or other liquid: *poached eggs on toast*

poach² *v* **1** [I;T] to catch or shoot (animals, birds, or fish) without permission on private land: *The gamekeeper caught him poaching (pheasants).* **2** [I (**on**);T (**from**)] to take or use unfairly (an idea, person, etc. belonging to or claimed by someone else): *A rival company poached our ideas and marketed them very successfully.* | *One of our key employees had been poached by a competitor.* (=they had persuaded him/her to go and work for them) —~**er** *n*

PO Box /ˌpiː əʊ ˈbɒks◂‖-ˈbɑːks/ also **post office box** *fml*– *n* a numbered box in a post office, to which someone's mail can be sent and from which they can collect it: *For further details, write to P.O. Box 179.*

Poc·a·hon·tas /ˌpɒkəˈhɒntəs‖ˌpəʊkəˈhɑːn-/ (1595?–1617) a Native American woman, daughter of Chief Powhatan of the **Powhatan** tribe. Pocahontas saved the life of Captain John Smith, leader of the British settlers at Jamestown, Virginia, when he was about to be killed by her father. Later, Chief Powhatan made friends with the settlers (=the English), and Pocahontas married an Englishman and moved to England, where she died of SMALLPOX.

pocked /pɒkt‖pɑːkt/ *adj* POCKMARKED

pock·et¹ /ˈpɒkɪt‖ˈpɑːkɪt/ *n* **1** a small flat cloth bag sewn into or onto a garment, for keeping small articles in: *standing with his hands in his pockets* | *My keys are in my coat pocket.* | *The policeman made me turn out my pockets.* (=empty them and show him what was inside) **2** [*usu. sing.*] (a supply of) money; income: *He paid for it out of his own pocket.* | *A lot of demands have been made on my pocket* (=I have had to spend a lot) *recently.* | *a range of family holidays* **to suit every pocket** (=for people of all incomes) **3** a container for small or thin articles made by fitting a piece of cloth, net, etc., into the inside of a case or a car door, onto the back of an aircraft seat, etc. **4** [(**of**)] a small area or group that exists separated from others like it: *Pockets of mist could be seen down by the river.* | *The invaders met pockets of resistance* (=small groups of people who fought against them) *in some cities.* —see also AIRPOCKET **5** any of the six small net bags round the table used in BILLIARDS, into which a ball can roll **6 be/live in each other's pockets** *esp. BrE infml* (of two people) to be together too much **7 have someone in one's pocket** to have complete influence over someone **8 have something in one's pocket** to be (almost) certain of gaining something or being successful in something: *The Democrats have got the election in their pocket.* **9 in pocket** *BrE* having made a profit: *I bought it for £500 and sold it for £550, so I was in pocket on the deal/I ended up £50 in pocket.* **10 out of pocket** *BrE* having paid a certain amount, usu. without good results: *I bought a new cigarette lighter and it broke; now I'm £10 out of pocket.* —see also OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES **11 put one's hand in one's pocket** to spend or give money —see also **line one's pockets** (LINE³)

pocket² *v* [T] **1** to put into one's pocket: *He pocketed his wallet and car keys.* **2** to take or get (money), esp. dishonestly: *We gave him £10 to buy presents for the children, but he pocketed most of it.* **3** (in games like BILLIARDS) to hit (a ball) into a POCKET¹ (5)

pocket³ *adj* [A] **1** small enough to be carried in the pocket: *a pocket camera* **2** smaller than the usual size: *a pocket battleship*

pock·et·book /ˈpɒkɪtbʊk‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* **1** a small notebook **2** *AmE old-fash* a woman's HANDBAG, esp. one without a shoulder STRAP

pocket cal·cu·lat·or /ˌ·· ˈ····/ *n* a small piece of electronic equipment which a person can carry with them and with which they can do calculations. People use them at school, college, work, and in the shops.

pock·et·ful /ˈpɒkɨtfʊl‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [(**of**)] the amount that a pocket will hold

pocket-hand·ker·chief[1] /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n fml* a handkerchief made of material, not paper

pocket-handkerchief[2] *adj* [A] *infml, esp. BrE* square and very small: *a pocket-handkerchief garden*

pock·et·knife /ˈpɒkɨtnaɪf‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* **-knives** /naɪvz/ a small knife with one or more blades that fold into the handle; PENKNIFE

pocket mon·ey /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** *esp. BrE* ‖ **allowance** *AmE*– money given weekly to a child by its parents **2** *infml* a little money to buy oneself things

pocket ve·to /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a VETO (disapproval) of a BILL[1] (2) by the President in which he takes no action on the bill. The President has ten days to either sign or refuse to accept a bill. If he takes no action and Congress is not working when the bill is returned to them at the end of the ten days, then the bill fails and does not become law and this is called a pocket veto.

pock·mark /ˈpɒkmɑːk‖ˈpɑːkmɑːrk/ *n* a hollow mark left on the skin where a small diseased area has been, esp. one caused by the disease SMALLPOX

pock·marked /ˈpɒkmɑːkt‖ˈpɑːkmɑːrkt/ also **pocked**– *adj* [(**with**)] covered with pockmarks: *a pockmarked face* | (fig.) *The metal surface was pockmarked with little holes.*

pod[1] /pɒd‖pɑːd/ *n* **1** a long narrow seed container of various plants, esp. beans and PEAS: *a pea pod* **2** a long narrow container for petrol or other substances, esp. one carried under an aircraft wing **3** a part of a space vehicle that can be separated from the main part

pod[2] *v* **-dd-** [T] to take (beans, PEAS, etc.) from their pod before cooking

podg·y /ˈpɒdʒi‖ˈpɑː-/ also **pudgy**– *adj infml, usu. derog* (of a person or part of the body) short and fat: *his podgy little hands* —**-iness** *n* [U]

po·di·a·trist /pəˈdaɪətrɨst/ *n esp. AmE for* CHIROPODIST —**-try** *n* [U]

po·di·um /ˈpəʊdiəm/ *n* **-diums** *or* **-dia** /diə/ **1** a small raised area for a performer, speaker, musical CONDUCTOR, etc., to stand on —see colour picture on page 883 **2** *AmE for* LECTERN

po·dunk /ˈpəʊdʌŋk/ *adj AmE infml derog* (*usu.* of a town) small and in the country: *I went to a podunk little school in a podunk town.*

Poe /pəʊ/, **Ed·gar Al·lan** /ˈedgəʳ ˈælən/ (1809–49) an American poet and writer of short stories. He wrote DETECTIVE stories such as *The Murders in the Rue Morgue*, but is most famous for writing stories about death and the SUPERNATURAL including *The Fall of the House of Usher*.

po·em /ˈpəʊɨm/ *n* a piece of writing, arranged in patterns of lines and of sounds, expressing some thought, feeling, or human experience in language full of imagination

po·e·sy /ˈpəʊɨzi‖-si/ *n* [U] *old use or poet* poetry

po·et /ˈpəʊɨt/ *n* a person who writes (good or serious) poems: (fig.) *She is a poet amongst pianists.* (=plays the piano with great feeling and imagination)

po·et·as·ter /ˌpəʊɨˈtæstəʳ/ *n derog, esp. lit* a writer of bad poems

po·et·ess /ˌpəʊɨˈtes◂‖ˈpəʊɨtɨs/ *n now rare* a female poet

po·et·ic /pəʊˈetɪk/ *adj* **1** of or like poets or poetry: *poetic language/drama* —compare PROSE (1) **2** *apprec* having qualities of deep feeling and effortless expression: *The dancer moved with poetic grace.* —**~ally** /kli/ *adv*

po·et·i·cal /pəʊˈetɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [A] written in the form of poems: *the complete poetical works of Wordsworth* **2** poetic

poetic jus·tice /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a result in which someone is punished or made to suffer for something bad they have done in a way that seems particularly suitable or right: *The rumours he had spread led to my dismissal, so it was poetic justice when he too was fired soon after.*

poetic li·cence /ˌ·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the freedom to change facts, not to obey the usual rules, etc. as allowed to poets, painters, etc.

poet laur·e·ate /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* (*often caps.*) a poet appointed by a country or a state, who writes poems on important occasions

po·et·ry /ˈpəʊɨtri/ *n* [U] **1** poems: *a book of poetry* | *the poetry of Dryden* —compare PROSE **2** the art of writing poems **3** *apprec* a quality of beauty, grace, and deep feeling: *This dancer has poetry in her movements.*

Poets' Cor·ner /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a part of Westminster Abbey in London where many famous English poets are buried, including Chaucer

po-faced /ˌpəʊ ˈfeɪst◂/ *adj BrE infml derog* having a silly solemn expression on the face, esp. showing disapproval

po·go stick /ˈpəʊgəʊ stɪk/ *n* a pole with a spring and a bar near the bottom on which one can place one's feet, holding the top, and then jump about for fun

pogo stick



pog·rom /ˈpɒgrəm‖pəˈgrɑːm/ *n* a planned killing of large numbers of people, esp. Jews, carried out for reasons of race or religion

poi·gnant /ˈpɔɪnjənt/ *adj fml* **1** producing a sharp feeling of sadness or pity: *poignant memories of an unhappy childhood* | *a poignant farewell* **2** (of sorrow, grief, etc.) painful and deeply felt —**~ly** *adv* —**-gnancy** *n* [U]

Poin·ca·ré /ˈpwæŋkæreɪ‖ ˌpwæŋkɑːˈreɪ/, **Hen·ri** /ˈɒnri‖ɑːnˈriː/ (1854–1912) a French MATHEMATICIAN, one of the greatest of his time

Poin·dex·ter /ˈpɔɪndekstəʳ/, **John** (1936–) an American REAR ADMIRAL and Republican government official. He was forced to RESIGN after the **Irangate** affair and was found guilty of selling arms to Iran.

poin·set·ti·a /pɔɪnˈsetiə‖-ˈsetə, -ˈsetiə/ *n* a tropical plant with flowerlike groups of large bright red leaves, popular for Christmas decoration

point[1] /pɔɪnt/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a sharp end: *She pricked herself with/on the point of a needle.* | *These thorns have sharp points.* | (fig.) *I won't make concessions at the point of a gun.* (=when I have a gun aimed at me) **2** [C] a particular real or imaginary place: *The bus stops at four or five points along this road.* | (fig.) *The only* **point of contact** *between them was their love of fishing.* —see also TURNING POINT **3** [C] a particular noticeable quality or ability of a person or thing; FEATURE: *What are the points to look for when you are buying a new computer?* | *I can't see any weak points in your plan.* —see also STRONG POINT **4** [C;U] an exact moment; particular time or state: *I'll resume the story at the point where the hero is about to rescue them.* | *At one point in the meeting she nearly lost her temper.* | *the* **melting point** *of gold* (=the temperature at which it melts) | *My patience had reached* **breaking point,** *and I'm afraid I was very rude to him.* | *She's always threatening to leave, but when* **it comes to the point** (=when the moment comes for her to take action) *she never does.* —see also BOILING POINT, FREEZING POINT, HIGH POINT **5** [C] any of the units used for recording the SCORE in various sports and games: *We won the rugby match by 12 points to 3.* | *The first player to get 21 points is the winner.* **6** [C] a single particular idea, fact, or part of an argument or statement: *There were two or three points in your speech that I didn't understand.* | *a five-point plan* | *Yes,* **I take your point.** (=I think that what you have just said is quite reasonable) | *You've* **got a point** *there.* (=What you have said seems to be right.) | *By skilful argument she succeeded in* **carrying/gaining her point.** (=making others agree) | *All right, you've* **made your point** (=I understand what you are trying to say)*; there's no need to go on about it.* | *He didn't seem keen to accept the offer, so I didn't* **press the point.** (=I did not continue to try to make him accept) **7** [*the*] the main idea contained in something said or done, which gives meaning to all of it: *I didn't* **see the point of** *his last remark.* (=did not understand it, or why he made it) | *He seems to have missed* (=failed to understand) *the whole point of the book.* | *I know he's a nice person but* **that's not the point.** (=not really important to or connected with the thing being talked about) | *I'm in a hurry, so* **come/get to the point.** (=come to the most important or urgent part of what you have to say) | *The fact that he's your brother is* **beside the point.** (=has nothing to do with the main subject) | *The*

chairman made a few rambling remarks, which were rather **off the point.** | *Your suggestion is very much* **to the point.** (=is highly RELEVANT) **8** [U **(in, of)**] purpose; advantage; use: *There's not much point in repairing that old car again.* | *What's the point of locking all the doors?* | *I can't see the point in trying to persuade him – he'll never change his mind.* **9** [C] also **decimal point**– a sign (·) used for separating a whole number from any following decimals: *When we read out 4·23 we say "four point two three".* **10** [C] *tech* a FULL STOP **11** [C] **a** a measure of increase or decrease in cost, value, etc.: *The dollar has fallen a few points on the money markets today.* | *The cost of living has risen by three percentage points.* (=by 3%) **b** *AmE* an amount of money equal to 1% of a MORTGAGE (=money borrowed to buy a house or other property): *If I refinance now I can knock two points off my mortgage.* **12** [C **(of)**] a very small area or spot: *We could just make out* **a point of light** *at the end of the tunnel.* **13** [C] a COMPASS POINT **14** [C] a sharply angled piece of land that stretches out into the sea: *The ship rounded the point.* **15** [C] also **power point** *BrE* ‖ **electric socket** *AmE*– a piece of plastic or other material with holes in it, in Britain usu. three square holes which is fixed into a wall and to which electrical equipment can be connected for the electricity supply **16** [C *usu. pl.*] *tech* the end of an electrical instrument or wire across which, or from which, a small amount of electricity is sent: *If the engine isn't working properly the points may need cleaning.* **17 at the point of** just before: *at the point of death|collapse* **18 case in point** something that proves or is an example of the subject under consideration: *I'm always ill when I go abroad; what happened on our last holiday is a case in point.* **19 in point of fact** actually; in reality: *He makes great claims about being an experienced traveller, but in point of fact he's only been abroad once.* **20 make a point of** to take particular care about: *She always makes a point of being punctual.* **21 on the point of** just starting to; just about to: *I was on the point of leaving when the phone rang.* **22 point of no return** a particular moment at which one has to decide whether to stop what one is doing or go on, because if one continues any further one will not be able to stop **23 to the point of** to a degree that can be described as: *Her manner of speaking is direct to the point of rudeness.* –see also POINTS, **stretch a point** (STRETCH[1])

point[2] *v* **1** [I **(at, to)**] to draw attention to something, or show where it is or how to get there, by holding out a finger or a long pointed object towards it: *She pointed to the house on the corner and said, "That's where I live."* | *It's rude to point at people.* **2** [T **(at, towards)**] to aim or direct: *You should never point a gun if you don't mean to fire it.* | *Their missiles are pointed at targets in enemy countries.* | *She pointed the boat upstream.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to be aimed in or show the stated direction: *The arrow points north.* **4** [T] to fill in and make smooth the spaces between the bricks of (a wall, house, etc.) with cement **5 point the finger (at)** *infml* to blame (someone) publicly; ACCUSE **6 point the way** to show how to gain a particular result: *This new discovery points the way forward in the search for a cure.*

point sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** [**(to)**] to show who or what (a particular person or thing) is, esp. by pointing: *You've never met her? Well she's here somewhere, so I'll point her out to you if I see her.* [*wh-*] *I pointed out to him where I used to live.* **2** [+*that*] to draw attention to the fact: *May I point out that if we don't leave now we shall miss the bus.*

point to/towards sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to suggest the strong possibility of; be a sign of: *All the evidence points towards Randall as the murderer.*

point sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *fml* to make clearer or more urgent; EMPHASIZE: *The increasing number of accidents points up the need for stricter road-safety measures.*

point-blank /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj, adv* **1** (fired) from a very close position: *He shot the animal point-blank|at point-blank range.* **2** (in a way that is) forceful and direct: *a point-blank refusal* | *I told him point-blank what I thought of his ridiculous idea.*

point du·ty /ˈ· ··/ *n* [**(on)** U] *BrE* the controlling of traffic by a policeman standing usu. at a point where two roads cross each other

point·ed /ˈpɔɪntɨd/ *adj* **1** shaped to a point at one end: *long pointed fingernails* **2** done in a noticeable way and intended to express a particular message or meaning: *She looked in a pointed manner at the clock and I understood that it was time to leave.* **3** (of something said) aimed noticeably and unfavourably at a particular person: *a few pointed remarks about the length of his hair* –~**ly** *adv*

point·er /ˈpɔɪntəʳ/ *n* **1** a thin piece of metal that moves and points to the numbers on a measuring apparatus **2** [**(to)**] *infml* a helpful piece of advice or information: *I'm new to this job, so I'd be grateful if you could give me a few pointers.* **3** a stick used for pointing at things on a large map, board, etc. **4** a hunting dog that stops with its nose pointed towards a hunted animal or bird that it has smelt

poin·til·lis·m /ˈpwæntɪlɪzəm, ˈpɔɪn-/ *n* [U] a style of painting which uses dots of colour to get its effect, developed in the late 19th century by artists who did not agree with the ideas of IMPRESSIONISM. The most famous painter to use this style was Seurat. –see also IMPRESSIONISM, SEURAT –**-list** *n, adj* : *the 19th-century French pointillist Seurat* | *a pointillist painting*

point·less /ˈpɔɪntləs/ *adj often derog* **1** done for no reason; meaningless: *pointless violence* **2** that cannot have any result; useless; FUTILE: *It's pointless to try to negotiate with them because they'll never change their minds.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

point man /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a person, esp. a soldier, who goes ahead of a group to see if there is any danger

point of or·der /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n fml* a matter connected with the organization of an official meeting: *to raise a point of order* | **On a point of order**, *Mr Chairman, shouldn't the minutes be read first?*

point of ref·e·rence /ˌ· · ˈ···/ *n* something one knows about already which helps one when one thinks about something else

point of view /ˌ· · ˈ·/ also **viewpoint**– *n* a particular way of considering or judging a situation, person, event, etc.: *We need someone with a fresh point of view, who can suggest changes.* | *From the government's point of view it would be better if this information were kept secret.* | *Try to look at it from their point of view.* (=to see the situation as they see it)

points /pɔɪnts/ *n* [P] **1** *BrE* ‖ **switches** *AmE*– a pair of short RAILS that can be moved to allow a train to cross over from one track to another **2** the ends of the toes, as used to dance on in BALLET **3** the gaining of more points than one's opponent in BOXING, rather than knocking him down: *Smith beat Jones* **on points.** | *a points victory*

points·man /ˈpɔɪntsmən/ *BrE* ‖ **switchman** *AmE*– *n pl* **-men** /mən/ **1** a person who operates railway POINTS (1) **2** a police or traffic officer controlling and directing traffic where two roads cross

point-to-point /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **point-to-points** *BrE* a horserace across country from one place to another, usu. with points along the way marked with flags. This sport is especially popular with upper-class people who live in the country.

Poi·rot /ˈpwɑːrəʊ‖pwɑːˈrəʊ/, **Her·cule** /ˈeəkjuːl‖eərˈkjuːl/ an imaginary DETECTIVE from the books of the English writer Agatha Christie. Hercule Poirot is a small, BALD man with a large MOUSTACHE and a very neat appearance. He is Belgian and thinks the English are strange, while the English think that his way of speaking English is funny. He is very clever and always discovers who the criminal is.

Hercule Poirot



poise[1] /pɔɪz/ *n* [U] *apprec* **1** good judgment and self-control in one's actions, combined with a quiet confidence in one's abilities; COMPOSURE **2** a well-balanced way of holding or moving one's body: *the dancer's graceful poise*

poise[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to hold or place in a carefully balanced position: *He poised the glass on the edge of the shelf.*

poised /pɔɪzd/ *adj* **1** [F+**between**] in a condition of (dangerous) uncertainty: *The sick man is poised between life*

and death. **2** [F (**for**/*to-v*)] in a state of readiness to act or move: *The army was poised for a major attack|poised to attack.* **3** [F+*adv|prep*] not moving, as if hanging in the air: *The bee hung poised above the flower.* **4** [F+*adv|prep*] carefully balanced: *She sat poised on the edge of her chair as if ready to go.* **5** *apprec* having or showing poise

poi·son[1] /ˈpɔɪzən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) substance that can cause illness or death if taken into the body: *These mushrooms contain a deadly poison.* | *a bottle of rat poison* (=for killing rats) | *Arsenic is a poison.* | *They* **hate** *each other* **like poison.** (=very much) | (fig.) *the poison* (=extremely harmful influence) *of pornography* **2** [U] *humor sl* alcoholic drink: *What's your poison?* (=What would you like to drink?)

poison[2] *v* [T] **1** to harm or kill with poison: *Someone tried to poison our dog.* **2** to put poison into or onto (something): *Someone tried to poison our dog's food.* | *a poisoned arrow|water supply* **3** to make dangerously impure: *Exhaust fumes from cars are poisoning the air of our cities.* **4** to have a damaging influence on: *Their minds have been poisoned by propaganda.* | *His insensitive remarks will poison relations between the two superpowers.* —see also FOOD POISONING **5** *esp. BrE* to infect (esp. a part of the body): *a poisoned foot* —~**er** *n*

poison gas /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] gas used in war to kill or harm an enemy

poison i·vy /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a North American climbing plant that causes painful spots on the skin when touched

poi·son·ous /ˈpɔɪzənəs/ *adj* **1** containing poison: *poisonous snakes* | *Some plants have poisonous berries.* **2** having the effects of poison: *This medicine is poisonous if taken in large quantities.* | (fig.) *the poisonous* (=extremely harmful) *influence of their lies* **3** *derog* nasty; very unpleasant: *She gave him a poisonous look.* —~**ly** *adv*

poison-pen let·ter /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a usu. unsigned letter saying bad things about someone

Poi·ti·er /ˈpwɒtieɪ‖ˈpwɑːtjeɪ/, **Sid·ney** /ˈsɪdni/ (1927–) a black American film actor and DIRECTOR, who was one of the first black actors to play serious parts rather than black STEREOTYPES

poke[1] /pəʊk/ *v* [I;T] **1** [(+*obj*)+*adv|prep*] to stretch out sharply or suddenly through or beyond a particular place or opening: *His elbow was poking (out) through his torn shirt sleeve.* | *She poked her head round the corner.* **2** [(**in, with**)] to push a pointed thing into (someone or something); PROD: *You nearly poked me in the eye with your pencil.* | *She poked the fire to make it burn better.* **3 poke fun at** to laugh or cause others to laugh rather unkindly at; make fun of —see also **poke one's nose in** (NOSE[1] (8))

poke about/around *phr v* [I] *infml* to move things about when looking for something: *She poked about in her bag for her ticket.* | *Who's been poking about in my private drawer?*

poke[2] *n* an act of poking with something pointed: *I gave her a poke in the ribs with my elbow to wake her up.* —see also **pig in a poke** (PIG[1])

pok·er[1] /ˈpəʊkəʳ/ *n* a metal rod used to poke a fire in order to make it burn better —see picture at FIREPLACE

poker[2] *n* [U] a card game usu. played for money

poker face /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [S] a face that shows nothing of what a person is thinking or feeling (from the game of poker in which players try not to show what they are feeling because they do not want other players to know if their cards are good or bad) —**poker-faced** *adj*

po·ker·work /ˈpəʊkəwɜːk‖-kərwɜːrk/ *n* [U] (the art of making) pictures or decoration on wood or leather made by burning the surface with hot tools

pok·y , pokey /ˈpəʊki/ *adj infml derog* **1** (of a place) uncomfortably small and unattractive: *a poky little house with a poky little garden in front* **2** ‖ **pokey** *AmE* annoyingly slow —**-iness** *n* [U]

Po·lack /ˈpəʊlæk/ *n AmE taboo* a POLE (=a person from Poland). In the US, jokes are made about the Polish, in which they appear to be quite stupid. These jokes are considered offensive, esp. by Polish people themselves —compare IRISH JOKE

Po·land /ˈpəʊlənd/ a country in central Europe; capital Warsaw; population 37,854,000 (1989). In 1939 Germany invaded (INVADE) Poland and during the Second World War many Polish people were killed by the Germans. From 1945 the USSR controlled the Polish government and the Communist party was the only political party allowed. In 1980, a new political party, Solidarity, led by Lech Walesa, began to oppose the Communist government and finally, in 1989, was elected as the new government. —see also EASTERN BLOC, SOLIDARITY, Lech WALESA

Po·lan·ski /pəˈlænski/, **Roman** (1933–) a Polish film DIRECTOR, who has made his films in English since the mid 1960s. His films are often about madness and violence and include *Repulsion* and *Rosemary's Baby*. He was married to the actress Sharon Tate who was killed by Charles Manson and his followers. He is no longer able to work in America because he was said to have had sex with girls who were too young to do this legally.

po·lar /ˈpəʊləʳ/ *adj* [A] **1** of, near, like, or coming from lands near the North or South Poles: *the polar ice-cap* **2** *fml or tech* exactly opposite in kind, quality, etc.: *The two systems of government are* **polar opposites.**

polar bear /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a large white bear that lives near the North Pole —see picture at BEAR

Po·la·ris /pəˈlɑːrɪs‖-ˈlæ-/ an American NUCLEAR weapon fired from a SUBMARINE, developed in the 1950s and 60s and used by the US and Britain as a nuclear DETERRENT

po·lar·i·ty /pəˈlærɪti/ *n* [C;U] **1** *fml* the state of having or developing two opposite qualities: *a growing polarity between the opinions of the government and those of the trade unions* **2** *tech* **a** the state of having two opposite POLES[3] (3,4,5) **b** either of the two states of electricity possessed by POLES[3] (4) (in the phrases **negative polarity, positive polarity**)

po·lar·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpəʊləraɪz/ *v* **1** [I;T (**into**)] to divide into groups based on two completely opposite principles, political opinions, etc.: *a highly controversial issue which has polarized the country* **2** [T] *tech* **a** to give POLARITY (2a) to **b** to cause (light waves) to VIBRATE (=move up and down) in a single particular pattern —**-ization** /ˌpəʊləraɪˈzeɪʃən‖-rə-/ *n* [U]

Po·lar·oid /ˈpəʊlərɔɪd/ *n tdmk* **1** [U] a material with which glass is treated in order to make light shine less brightly through it, used in making SUNGLASSES, car windows, etc. **2** [C] also **Polaroid camera** a camera that produces a finished photograph from inside itself only seconds after the picture has been taken

Po·lar·oids /ˈpəʊlərɔɪdz/ *n* [P] SUNGLASSES treated with Polaroid —see PAIR (USAGE)

pole[1] /pəʊl/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a long straight round rather thin stick or post, esp. one stuck upright or nearly upright into the ground as a support: *The hut was made of poles covered with grass mats.* | *a tent pole* | *a flagpole* | (fig.) *climbing the greasy|slippery pole of promotion* (=where it is easy to fail and go backwards) **2 up the pole** *infml, esp. BrE* slightly mad

pole[2] *v* [I] to use a pole or poles to move along, e.g. in a flat-bottomed boat or when sliding over snow on SKIS

pole[3] *n* **1** (the area around) the most northern and southern points on the surface of a PLANET, esp., on Earth, the NORTH POLE or SOUTH POLE or the cold areas around them: *the rigours of life at the poles* | (fig., *lit*) *from pole to pole* (=all over the world) —see also MAGNETIC POLE **2** either of two positions that are as far apart or different as possible: *Our opinions on this subject are at opposite poles.* **3** either of the two points in the sky to the north and south round which stars seem to turn **4** either of the points at the ends of a MAGNET where its power of pulling iron towards itself is strongest **5** either of the two points at which wires can be fixed onto an electric BATTERY in order to use the electricity (often in the phrases **negative pole, positive pole**) **6** either end of an imaginary straight line (AXIS) round which a solid round mass turns **7 poles apart** widely separated; having no shared quality, idea, etc.: *They are poles apart in their political attitudes.*

Pole *n* a person who comes or whose parents come from Poland

pole-axe /ˈpəʊlæks/ *v* [T] to knock down (as if) with a very hard hit; *The boxer was poleaxed by a savage punch to the jaw.*

pole·cat /ˈpəʊlkæt/ *n* **1** a small fierce dark brown animal

Christopher Columbus discovers America

In 1492 Christopher Columbus was the first European to discover America.

'Not tonight, Josephine.'

Napoleon Bonaparte, the French military leader, is supposed to have said this to Josephine one evening when she was feeling romantic but he was resting before battle. People sometimes use this phrase in a joking way when they refuse an invitation or an offer.

The Charge of the Light Brigade

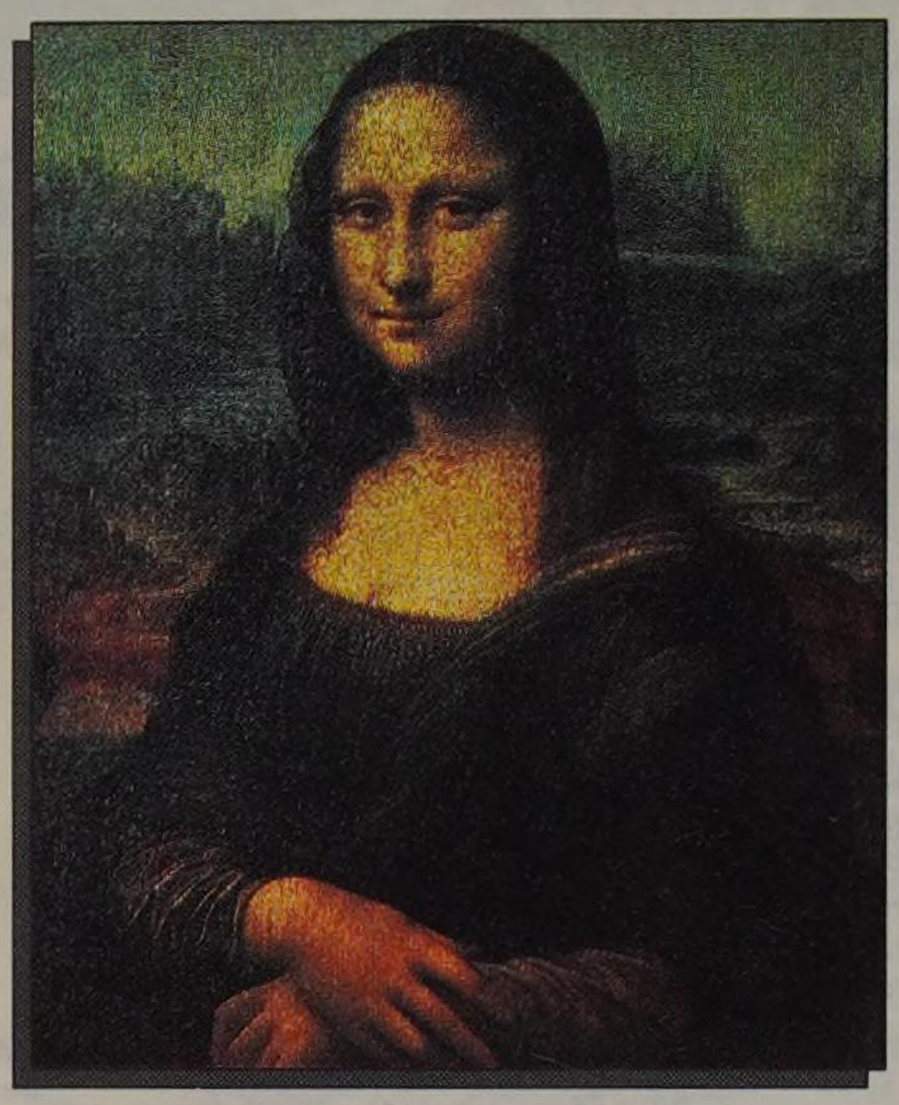
During the Crimean War, British soldiers were sent into a battle which they could not win because they had only swords and were fighting against cannons. Many were killed.

The Boston Tea Party

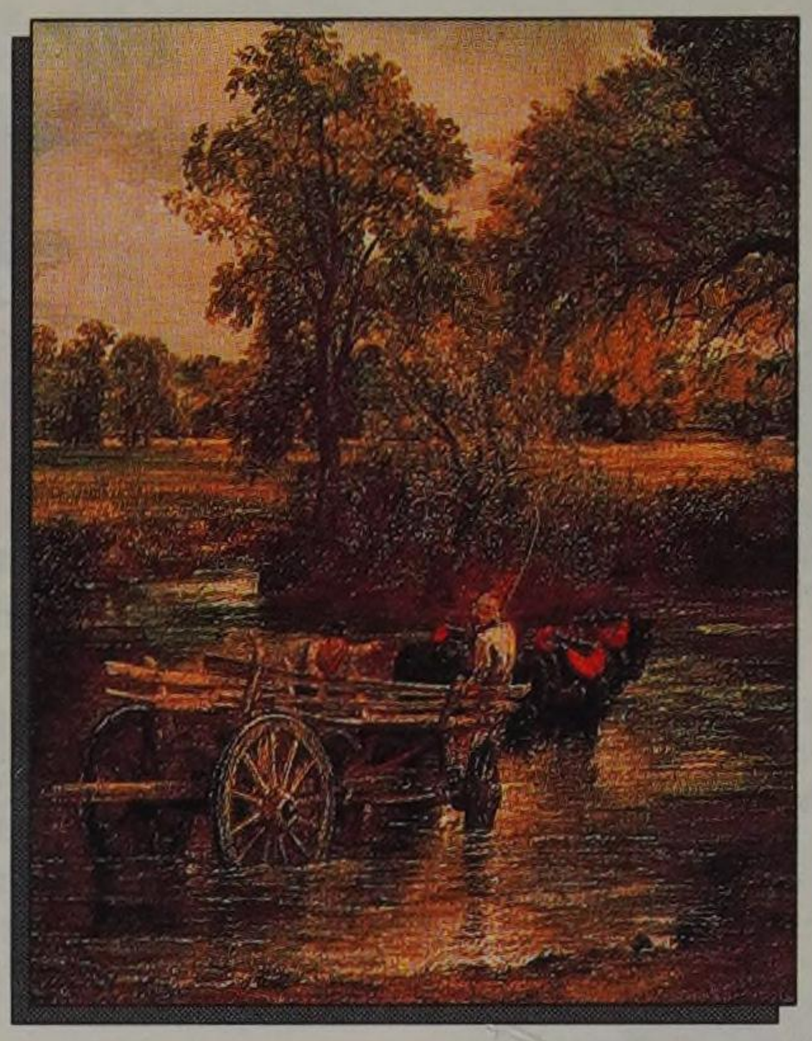
In 1773 a group of American men, dressed as Native Americans, went onto English ships in Boston Harbour because they were angry that the English government, which ruled America, had introduced a new tax on tea. The men threw all the tea that the ships were carrying into the water.

The Pilgrim Fathers

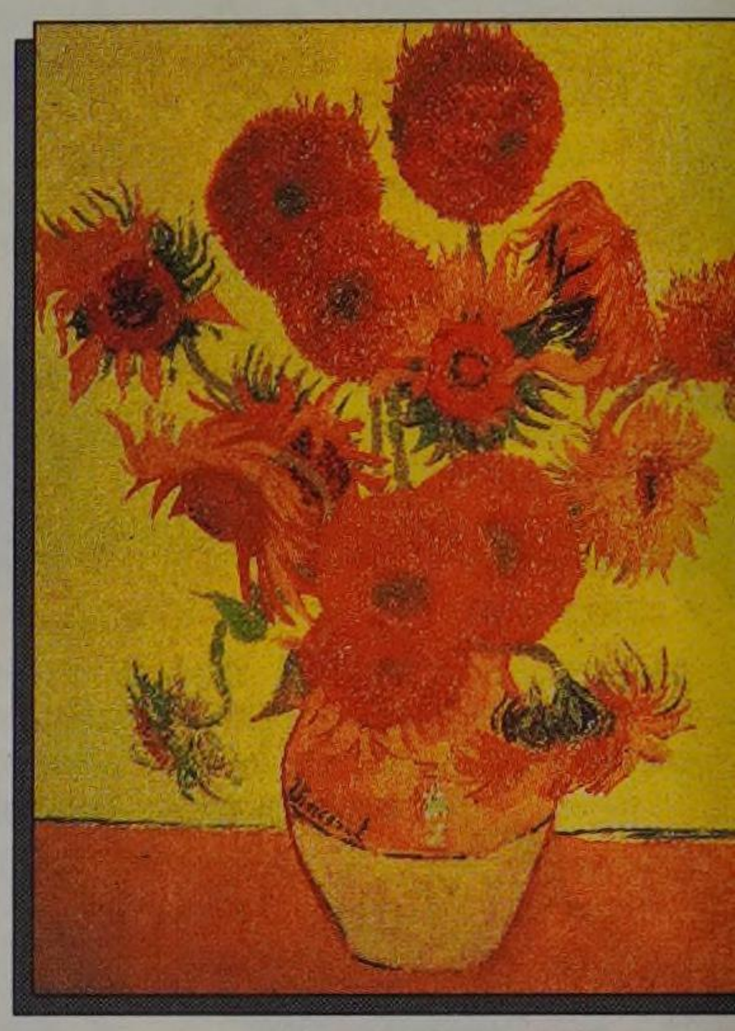
The Pilgrim Fathers sailed to America because they wanted to escape from England to make a new kind of society based on their own religious beliefs.



The Mona Lisa
by Leonardo Da Vinci



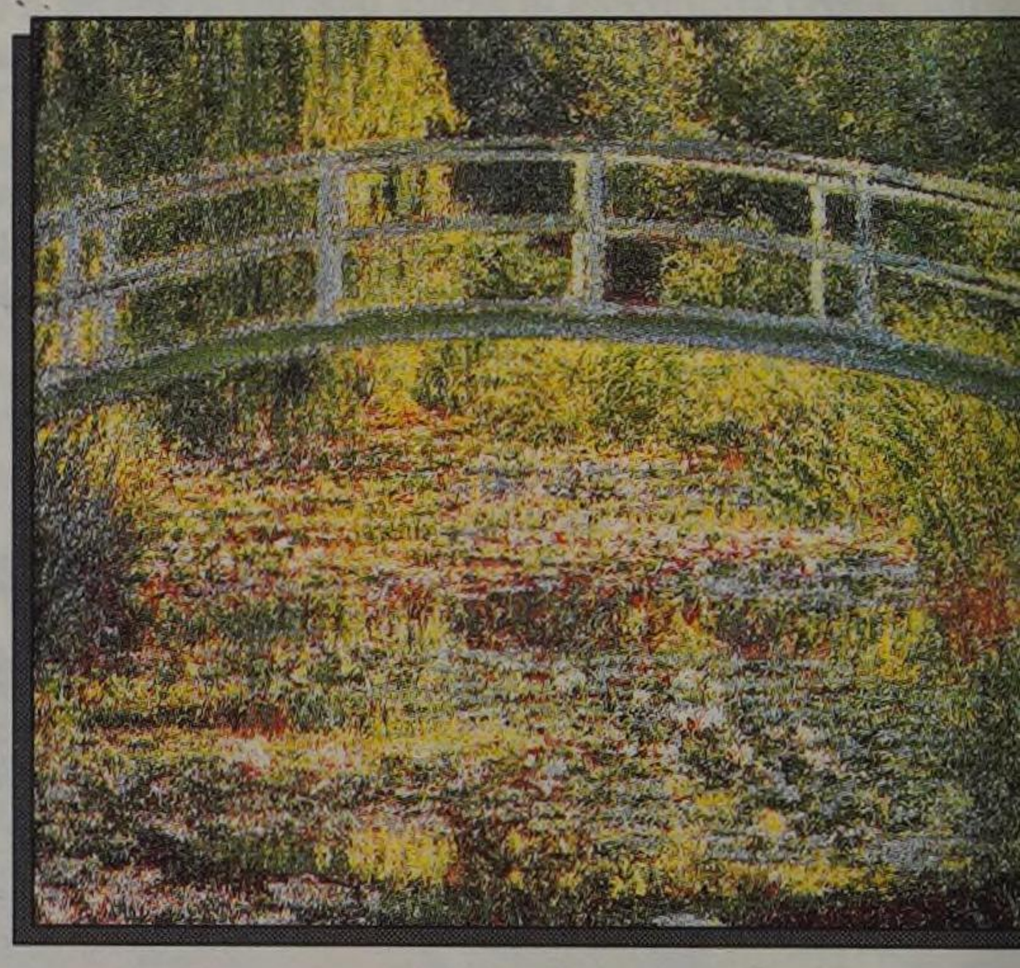
The Haywain
by John Constable



Sunflowers
by Vincent Van Gogh



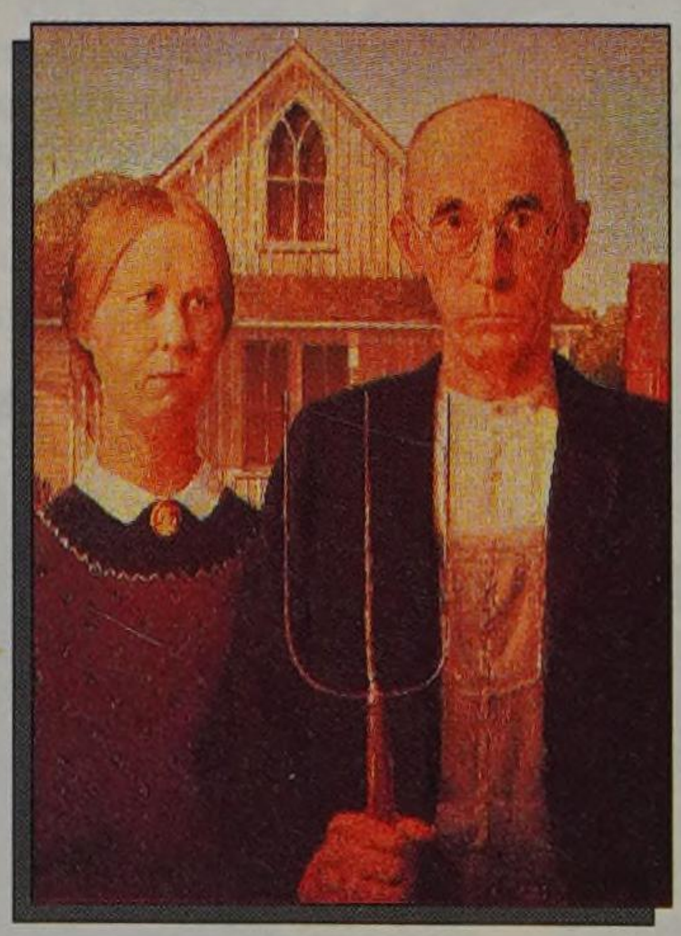
View on the Grand Canal
by Canaletto



Waterlily Pond
by Claude Monet



The Laughing Cavalier
by Frans Hals



American Gothic
by Grant Wood



Le Moulin de la Galette
by Renoir

that lives in northern Europe and has a very unpleasant smell **2** *AmE infml for* SKUNK (1)

po·lem·ic /pə'lemɪk/ *n fml or tech* **1** [C] a fierce attack on or defence of an opinion **2** [U] also **polemics**– the art or practice of attacking or defending opinions, ideas, etc.

po·lem·i·cal /pə'lemɪkəl/ also **polemic**– *adj fml or tech* written or said with the main purpose of attacking or defending opinions, ideas, etc. as if in an argument, rather than simply expressing or explaining them – **~ly** /kli/ *adv*

pole po·si·tion /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] the front position at the beginning of a car race: *By doing the fastest practice lap Senna got (the) pole position.*

pole star /ˈ· ·/ also **North Star**– *n* [*the*] (*often cap.*) the rather bright star that is nearest to the centre of the sky in the northern part of the world

pole vault /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [C] a jump made over a high raised bar with the help of a long pole **2** [*the*+S] the sport of doing this –see colour picture on page 883 –**pole-vault** *v* [I] – **~er** *n*

po·lice[1] /pə'liːs/ *n* [(*the*) P] an official body of men and women whose job is to protect people and property, to make everyone obey the law, to catch criminals, etc. In Britain, people can call the police quickly by dialling (DIAL[2]) 999; in the US, the number is 911: *The police have caught the murderer.* | *Have you reported the incident to the police?* | *Extra police were rushed to the scene of the trouble.* | *She wants to join the police force.* | *a police car* –see also MILITARY POLICE, SECRET POLICE

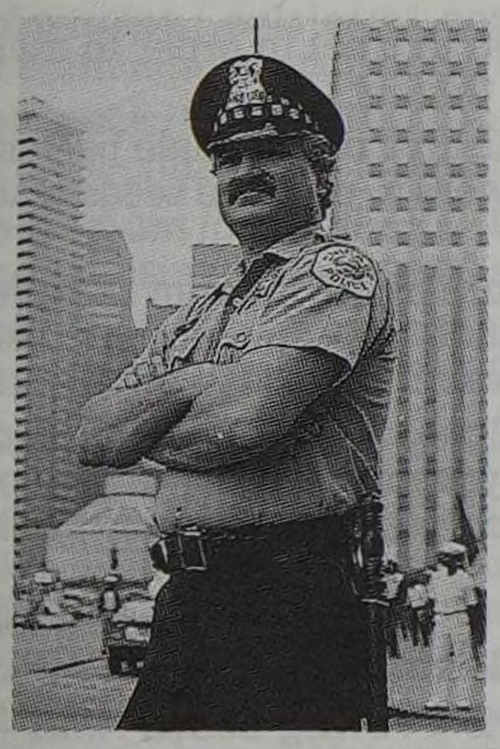
police[2] *v* [T] **1** to control (a place) (as if) using police: *increased policing of the inner cities* | *The army policed the riot-torn city.* **2** to control; keep a watch on: *A new body has been set up to police the nuclear power industry.*

Police, The a British popular music group successful in the 1970s and 1980s, whose lead singer was called Sting

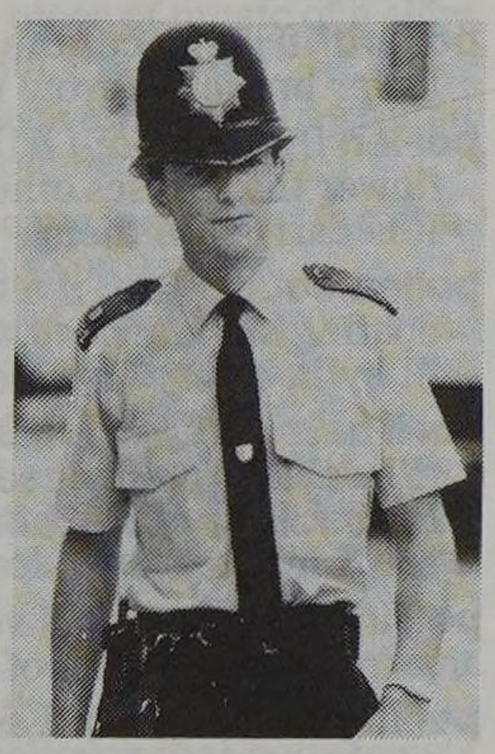
police con·sta·ble /·ˌ· ˈ···◂/ *n BrE fml* see P.C.

police dog /·ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a dog, usu. an Alsatian, which is trained to help the police find drugs or catch criminals **2** *AmE* ALSATIAN

policemen



an American policeman



a British policeman

po·lice·man /pə'liːsmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ **1** a male police officer

▶ CULTURAL NOTE In Britain and the US, the old-fashioned STEREOTYPE of a policeman is of a friendly man who helps people, for example by telling them how to get to a place or by telling them what time it is.

2 a policeman's lot is not a happy one *quote* a slightly changed phrase from an OPERA by Gilbert and Sullivan, often used when saying how difficult the job of the police is

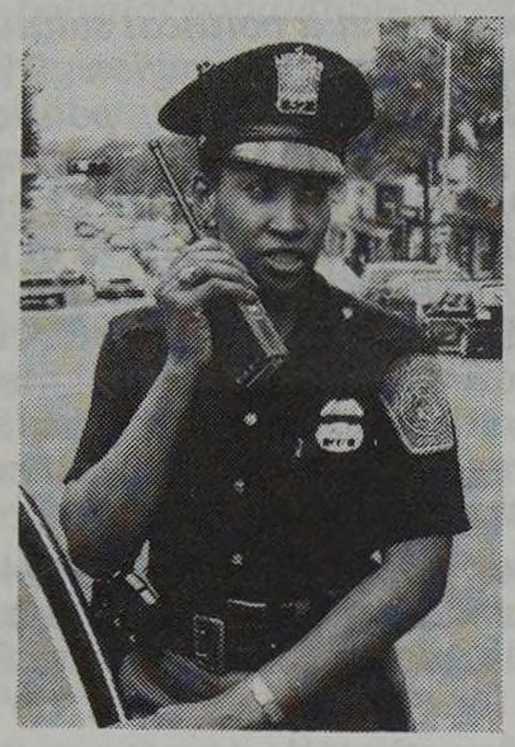
police of·fi·cer /·ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* a member of a police force

police state /·ˈ· ·/ *n derog* a country in which most activities of the citizens are controlled by (secret) political police

police sta·tion /·ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the local office of the police in a town, part of a city, etc.

po·lice·wom·an /pə'liːsˌwʊmən/ *n* **-women** /ˌwɪmɪn/ a female police officer

policewomen



an American policewoman



a British policewoman

pol·i·cy[1] /ˈpɒlɨsi‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [C;U] **1** a course of action for dealing with a particular matter or situation, esp. as chosen by a political party, government, business company, etc.: *The government must evolve new policies to reduce unemployment.* | *The nationalization of industries is not government policy.* (=they do not intend to do it) | *What is the company's policy on employing disabled people?* | *economic policy* | *a policy statement* **2** a course or principle of action, esp. one that is to one's own advantage: *It's bad policy to smoke too much; it may harm your health.* | *As they say, honesty is the best policy.*

policy[2] also **insurance policy**– *n* a written statement of the details of an agreement with an insurance company: *an all-risks policy* | *policy-holders*

po·li·o /ˈpəʊliəʊ/ also **po·li·o·my·e·li·tis** /ˌpəʊliəʊmaɪəˈlaɪɨs/ *tech*– *n* [U] a serious infectious disease of the nerves in the SPINE, often resulting in a lasting PARALYSIS (=inability to move certain muscles)

pol·ish[1] /ˈpɒlɪʃ‖ˈpɑː-/ *v* [T(UP)] to make smooth, bright, and shiny by continual rubbing: *Polish your shoes with a brush.* | *He polished up the old copper coins.* – **~er** *n* : *an electric floor polisher*

polish sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to finish (food, work, etc.), esp. quickly or easily: *He polished off a plate of fish and chips in no time at all.*

polish sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to improve by practising: *I'll need to polish up my French if I'm going to France for my holidays.*

polish[2] *n* **1** [U] (*often in comb.*) a liquid, powder, PASTE, etc., used in polishing a surface: *a tin of brown shoe polish* | *floor polish* –see also FRENCH POLISH **2** [S] a smooth shiny surface produced by rubbing: *A hot plate will spoil the table's polish.* **3** [S] an act of polishing: *These shoes need a polish!* **4** [U] the quality of being POLISHED: *His writing has potential but lacks polish.*

Pol·ish /ˈpəʊlɪʃ/ *adj* of Poland, its people, or their language

pol·ished /ˈpɒlɪʃt‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj* **1** (of a piece of artistic work, a performance, etc.) done with great skill and control **2** (of manners, etc.) polite and graceful

po·lit·bu·ro /pəˈlɪtbjʊərəʊ, ˈpɒlɨt-‖ˈpɑːlɨt-, pəˈlɪt-/ *n* **-ros** (*often cap.*) the chief decision-making committee of a Communist party or Communist government

po·lite /pəˈlaɪt/ *adj apprec* **1** having or showing good manners, sensitivity to other people's feelings, and/or correct social behaviour: *What polite well-behaved children!* | *It's not considered polite to talk with your mouth full.* | *a polite refusal* | *I know he said he liked it, but he was only being polite.* (=in fact, he didn't like it) –opposite **rude, impolite** **2** *old-fash pomp* showing fineness of feeling, good education and manners, etc.; REFINED: *polite society* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

polite so·ci·e·ty /·ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] (the company of) the set of

people who are considered to have a good education, good manners, and fine feelings: *That's not the kind of word you'd use in polite society.* | *an ex-farmer who felt ill at ease in polite society*

pol·i·tic /ˈpɒlɪtɪk‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj fml* (of behaviour or actions) well-judged and likely to bring advantage; PRUDENT: *It would be politic to agree with him.* —see also BODY POLITIC

po·lit·i·cal /pəˈlɪtɪkəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of public affairs and/or the government of a country and its relations with other countries: *the loss of political freedoms* | *a country's political institutions* (=its law-making bodies, systems of government, etc.) | *attempts to find a political solution* (=not a military one) *to the problems of the region* **2** [*no comp.*] of (party) politics: *She has very strong political opinions.* | *the newspaper's political editor* **3** [*no comp.*] charged with or being an act harmful to a government: *a political offence* **4** very interested in or active in politics: *The students in this university are very political.* **5** *usu. derog* connected with, influenced by, or done for reasons of personal, group, or governmental advantage rather than for the reasons officially given: *a political decision* | *The tax cuts were made for purely political reasons.* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv* : *politically motivated strikes*

political ac·tion com·mit·tee /ˌ··· ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **PAC**— *n AmE* an organization formed by a business, INTEREST GROUP, or TRADE UNION to raise money to help people who support their ideas to run for CONGRESS

political ac·tiv·ist /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n sometimes derog* a person taking a very active part in a political movement

political a·sy·lum /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] the right to remain safely in another country, for a person who cannot live safely in their own because of the political situation: *a Tamil refugee seeking political asylum*

political e·con·o·my /ˌ··· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the study of the way nations manage the making and use of wealth

political ge·og·ra·phy /ˌ··· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the study of the Earth's surface as it is divided up into different countries, rather than as marked by rivers, mountain ranges, etc.

politically cor·rect /ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ also **PC**— *adj* correct according to a set of LIBERAL opinions, e.g. that black people and women should have equal chances to get jobs, education, etc.: *His politically correct speech stated that university students should study literature written by blacks and women as well as Shakespeare and Homer.*

political ma·chine /ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ *n AmE, usu. derog* the way in which a politician, esp. a MAYOR or GOVERNOR runs his office so that he is in control of everything that happens

political par·ty /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* a group of people with similar political ideas who try to gain power in a country: *Which of the main political parties is most likely to win the election?*

political pris·on·er /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* a person who is put in prison because they oppose the government of a country, or because the government does not agree with their ideas

political sci·ence /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the scientific study of politics and government —**political scientist** *n*

pol·i·ti·cian /ˌpɒlɪˈtɪʃən‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* **1** a person whose business is politics, esp. one who has been elected to a parliament or to a position in government. Politicians are often mentioned in jokes as being people you cannot trust. — see colour picture on page 950 **2** someone who is skilled at dealing with people in a way that is advantageous to himself or herself or at using a system to his or her own advantage: *You need to be a bit of a politician to succeed in this company.*

po·lit·i·cize also **-cise** *BrE* /pəˈlɪtɪsaɪz/ *v* [T] *often derog* **1** to give a political character to **2** to cause to develop an interest in, and understanding of politics —**-cization** /pəˌlɪtɪsaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-sə-/ *n* [U] : *opposition to the politicization of the civil service*

pol·i·tick·ing /ˈpɒlɪtɪkɪŋ‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* taking part in political activity or talk, esp. for personal advantage

po·lit·i·co /pəˈlɪtɪkəʊ/ *n* **-cos** *or* **-coes** *usu. derog* a politician or other person who is active in politics: *politicos and party hacks, trying to get into comfortable jobs in the government*

pol·i·tics /ˈpɒlɪtɪks‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* **1** [U+*sing./pl. v*] political affairs, esp. considered as a profession and/or as a means of winning and keeping governmental control: *Politics has/have never interested me.* | *She wants to* **go into politics.** (=become a politician) | *local politics* | *I was active in student politics when I was at college.* **2** [U] the art or science of government: *Tom is studying politics at university.* **3** [P] political opinions; the political ideas or party that one favours: *What are her politics?* **4** [U] activity within a particular group or organization by which some members of the group try to gain an advantage over others: *Try not to get involved in* **office politics.** | *sexual politics*

pol·i·ty /ˈpɒlɪti‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (a particular form of) political or governmental organization

Polk /pəʊk/, **James** (1795–1849) the 11th president of the US (1845–49)

pol·ka /ˈpɒlkə, ˈpəʊlkə ‖ ˈpəʊl-/ *n* (a piece of music for) a very quick simple dance for people dancing in pairs. In the US, the polka is seen as rather old-fashioned and amusing.

polka dot /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of a number of circular spots forming a pattern, used esp. on dress material: *a polka-dot skirt*

poll[1] /pəʊl/ *n* **1** [C] also **opinion poll**— **a** an attempt to find out the general opinion about something, esp. about a political matter, by questioning a number of people chosen by chance: *We're conducting a poll to find out how many people are in favour of nuclear power.* **b** a record of the result of this: *The latest poll gives the Republicans a 5% lead.* —see also DEED POLL, GALLUP POLL, STRAW POLL **2** [U] also **polls** *pl.*— the giving of votes in writing at an election: *The result of the poll won't be known until midnight.* | *The Conservatives were defeated at the polls.* | *The British public will* **go to the polls** (=vote in an election) *in the autumn.* **3** [S] the number of votes recorded at an election: *They expected a heavy poll.* (=expected that a large number of people would vote) **4** [U] *AmE* POLLS (2)

poll[2] *v* [T] **1** to question (people) in making a poll: *Almost three-quarters of those who were polled said they opposed the government's policy.* **2** to receive (the stated number of votes) at an election: *She polled 10,372 votes.*

pol·lard[1] /ˈpɒlədˈpɑːlərd/ *n* **1** a tree from which the top has been cut in order to make the branches below the cut place grow more thickly **2** a hornless kind of sheep, goat, etc.

pollard[2] *v* [T] to cut the top off (a tree) in order to make lower branches grow more thickly

pol·len /ˈpɒlən‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] fine dust on the male part of a flower that causes other flowers to produce seeds when it is carried to them

pollen count /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a measure of the amount of pollen floating in the air, esp. as a guide for people who are made ill by it: *a very high pollen count* —see also HAY FEVER

pol·li·nate /ˈpɒlɪneɪt‖ˈpɑː-/ *v* [T] to cause (a flower or plant) to be able to produce seeds by adding or bringing pollen: *Flowers are often pollinated by bees.* —**-nation** /ˌpɒlɪˈneɪʃən‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [U]

poll·ing /ˈpəʊlɪŋ/ *n* [U] voting at an election: *Polling was quite heavy.* (=A lot of people voted.)

polling booth /ˈ·· ·/ *n esp. BrE* ‖ **voting booth** *AmE*— a partly enclosed place inside a polling station where someone marks their voting paper secretly —see colour picture on page 950

polling day /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* ‖ **election day** *AmE*— the day on which people go to vote in an election

polling sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n esp. BrE* ‖ **polling place, the polls** *AmE*— a building or other place where people go to vote at an election: *Our local library is used as a polling station during elections.*

Pol·lock /ˈpɒlək‖ˈpɑː-/, **Jackson** (1912–56) an American ARTIST whose large ABSTRACT paintings are full of colour and are often made with DRIPS of paint. Pollock was one of the first artists to try to express his feelings through this type of painting.

polls /pəʊlz/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** POLL[1] (2) **2** *AmE* the place where one goes to vote: *"Where are the polls this year?" "At the school."*

poll·ster /ˈpəʊlstəʳ/ *n infml* a person who carries out POLLS[1] (1), or who explains the meaning of the results of polls

poll tax /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] **1** a tax of a fixed amount collected from every citizen **2** also **Community Charge** a British tax

of a fixed amount to be paid by each person in each area of the country, introduced by the Conservative government of Margaret Thatcher as a way of paying for local government services. The amount to be paid was fixed separately by each area. Many people protested against this tax, and it was decided to replace it with the **council tax**, based mainly on the value of people's houses.

pol·lut·ant /pə'luːtənt/ *n* [C;U] a substance that pollutes, esp. a waste product of an industrial process: *Pollutants are constantly being released into the atmosphere.*

pol·lute /pə'luːt/ *v* [T] to make (air, water, soil, etc.) dangerously impure or unfit for use: *The river has been polluted by waste products from the factory.* | (fig.) *violent films that pollute* (=make impure) *young minds*

pol·lu·tion /pə'luːʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the action of polluting or the state of being polluted: *pollution of tourist beaches* | *anti-pollution laws* **2** (an area or mass of) a substance that pollutes: *The men were clearing all the pollution off the beach.*

Pollux see CASTOR AND POLLUX

poll watch·er /'· ··/ *n* a person who goes to a POLLING STATION to make sure that the voting is fair and honest: *Poll watchers were sent to observe the country's first democratic elections but were unable to prevent some abuses.*

Pol·ly /'pɒli‖'pɑː-/ a popular name for a PARROT

Pol·ly·an·na /ˌpɒli'ænə‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* a person who is always OPTIMISTIC and cheerful, esp. when seen as having little experience of the world (from the book *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Porter, whose main character is a young girl who always believes something good will happen): *She's a real Pollyanna, she's sure someone will send her the money.*

po·lo /'pəʊləʊ/ *n* [U] a game played between two teams of players on horseback, who hit a small ball with long-handled wooden hammers. Polo is a game which is played and watched esp. by very rich and fashionable people, including the Prince of Wales, and is seen as a GLAMOROUS and exciting sport. —see also WATER POLO

Polo[1] also **Polo mint** /'·· ·/— *BrE tdmk* a round white sweet which tastes of MINT and has a hole in the middle

Polo[2]**, Mar·co** /'mɑːkəʊ‖'mɑːr-/ (1254?–1324) an Italian TRAVELLER who wrote about his stay at the court of Kublai Khan in China and his travels in India and SE Asia

pol·o·naise /ˌpɒlə'neɪz‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* a piece of music of a slow ceremonial kind, esp. written for the piano

polo neck /'·· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **turtleneck** *esp. AmE*— *n* a round rolled collar, usu. woollen: *a polo-neck sweater*

po·lo·ni·um /pə'ləʊniəm/ *n* [U] a heavy metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT) and is RADIOACTIVE

polo shirt /'·· ·/ *n* a shirt with short SLEEVES and a collar made out of soft knitted (KNIT[1]) cotton material

Pol Pot /ˌpɒl 'pɒt‖ˌpəːl 'pɑːt/ (1928?–) the Prime Minister of Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia) from 1975 to 1979 during which time very many people were killed. Pol Pot is a member of the Communist political group the Khmer Rouge. —see also KHMER ROUGE

pol·ter·geist /'pɒltəgaɪst‖'pəʊltər-/ *n* a troublesome spirit that is believed to make noises, throw objects about, etc., esp. in a home. Not everyone believes that poltergeists really exist.

pol·troon /pɒl'truːn‖pɑːl-/ *n derog old use* a coward

pol·y /'pɒli‖'pɑːli/ *n* **polys** *BrE infml for* POLYTECHNIC

poly- see WORD FORMATION

pol·y·an·dry /ˌpɒli'ændri, 'pɒliændri‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [U] *tech* the custom or practice of having more than one husband at the same time. In Britain and the US it is against the law for women to do this. —compare BIGAMY, POLYGAMY —**drous** *adj*

pol·y·an·thus /ˌpɒli'ænθəs‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [C;U] a small garden plant with a group of round brightly-coloured flowers at the top of each stem

pol·y·es·ter /'pɒliestəʳ, ˌpɒli'estəʳ‖'pɑːliestər/ *n* [U] a man-made material used to make cloth. Polyester is not usu. as expensive or as fashionable as natural materials such as wool or cotton.

pol·y·eth·y·lene /ˌpɒli'eθəliːn‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE for* POLYTHENE

po·lyg·a·mist /pə'lɪgəmɪst/ *n tech* a man who has more than one wife in a society where this is allowed —see also POLYGAMY

po·lyg·a·my /pə'lɪgəmi/ *n* [U] *tech* the custom or practice of having more than one husband or wife at the same time in a society where this is allowed. In Britain and the US it is against the law for men or women to do this. —compare BIGAMY, MONOGAMY —**mous** *adj* : *Many ancient societies were polygamous.*

pol·y·glot /'pɒlɪglɒt‖'pɑːlɪglɑːt/ *adj tech* **1** (of a person, book, etc.) speaking or using many languages; MULTILINGUAL **2** including groups that speak different languages: *a polyglot population/society* —**polyglot** *n*

pol·y·gon /'pɒlɪgən‖'pɑːlɪgɑːn/ *n* (in GEOMETRY) a figure on a flat surface having five or more straight sides

pol·y·graph /'pɒlɪgrɑːf‖'pɑːlɪgræf/ *n tech for* LIE DETECTOR

pol·y·math /'pɒlɪmæθ‖'pɑː-/ *n fml apprec* a person who has a wide range of knowledge in many subjects

pol·y·mer /'pɒlɪməʳ‖'pɑː-/ *n* a chemical compound having a simple structure of large MOLECULES

pol·y·mor·phous /ˌpɒlɪ'mɔːfəs◂‖ˌpɑːlɪ'mɔːr-/ also **pol·y·mor·phic** /-fɪk◂/— *adj fml or tech* having or passing through many stages of growth, development, etc.

Pol·y·ne·si·a /ˌpɒlᵻ'niːziə‖ˌpɑːlᵻ'niːʒə/ the islands in the central and southern Pacific Ocean, including the Hawaiian islands, Tonga, and the islands of French Polynesia

Pol·y·ne·si·an /ˌpɒlᵻ'niːziən◂‖ˌpɑːlᵻ'niːʒən◂/ *n* **1** a person who comes from or whose parents come from Polynesia **2** [U] a group of languages spoken in Polynesia — **Polynesian** *adj*

pol·yp /'pɒlᵻp‖'pɑː-/ *n* **1** a very simple small water animal, having the form of a tubelike bag **2** a small unnatural growth in the body, caused by an illness — ~**ous** *adj*

po·lyph·o·ny /pə'lɪfəni/ *n* [U] a form of musical writing in which several different patterns of notes are sung or played together, fitting in with each other musically, according to certain rules; COUNTERPOINT —**nic** /ˌpɒlɪ'fɒnɪk‖ˌpɑːlɪ'fɑːnɪk/ *adj*

pol·y·pro·py·lene /ˌpɒli'prəʊpᵻliːn‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [U] a lightweight plastic material used for wrapping, in floor coverings, etc.

po·lys·e·mous /ˌpə'lɪsᵻməs, pɒlɪ'siːməs‖pə'lɪsᵻməs/ *adj tech* (of a word) having many different meanings

pol·y·sor·bate /ˌpɒlɪ'sɔːbeɪt‖ˌpɑːlɪ'sɔːr-/ *n* [U] a kind of EMULSIFIER used in preparing PROCESSED FOODS to keep liquids and solids from separating; a food ADDITIVE

pol·y·sty·rene /ˌpɒlɪ'staɪəriːn‖ˌpɑː-/ ‖ also **Styrofoam** *AmE tdmk*— *n* [U] a light plastic that prevents the escape of heat, used esp. for making containers

pol·y·syl·la·ble /'pɒlɪˌsɪləbəl‖'pɑː-/ *n tech* a word that contains more than three SYLLABLES —**bic** /ˌpɒlɪsᵻ'læbɪk◂‖ˌpɑː-/ *adj* : *"Unnecessary" is polysyllabic.* —**bically** /kli/ *adv*

pol·y·tech·nic /ˌpɒlɪ'teknɪk‖ˌpɑː-/ also **poly** *infml*— *n* (esp. in Britain) a college of higher education, similar to a university, providing training and degrees in many subjects, esp. those which prepare people for particular jobs in science, industry, etc. Although degrees from polytechnics are as good as those from universities, they are considered by some people to be less PRESTIGIOUS than university degrees. —compare TECHNICAL COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY and see also extra information on page 408

pol·y·the·is·m /'pɒlɪθiːɪzəm‖'pɑː-/ *n* [U] the belief that there is more than one god —compare MONOTHEISM —**ist** *adj, n* —**istic** /ˌpɒlɪθiː'ɪstɪk◂‖ˌpɑː-/ *adj*

pol·y·thene /'pɒlᵻθiːn‖'pɑː-/ ‖ also **polyethylene** *esp. AmE*— *n* [U] a strong light bendable plastic used esp. as a protective covering, for making many common articles: *a polythene bag*

pol·y·un·sat·u·rate /ˌpɒliʌn'sætʃərᵻt‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* a polyunsaturated FATTY ACID: *This vegetable oil is high in polyunsaturates.*

pol·y·un·sat·u·rat·ed /ˌpɒliʌn'sætʃəreɪtᵻd◂‖ˌpɑː-/ *adj* (of a fat or oil) having chemicals combined in a way that is thought to be good for the health when eaten: *Most vegetable oils contain polyunsaturated fats.* —compare SATURATED FAT

pol·y·u·re·thane /ˌpɒlɪˈjʊərəθeɪn◂‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [U] a plastic used esp. in making paints and VARNISH

pom /pɒm‖pɑːm/ also **pommy**– *n AustrE, NZE sl, often derog* an English person, esp. one who has gone to live in Australia or New Zealand. In Australia and New Zealand the popular image of an English person is of someone who is lazy and who complains all the time (a "whinging Pom").

po·made /pəˈmɑːd, pəˈmeɪd‖pəʊˈmeɪd/ *n* [U] a sweet-smelling oily substance rubbed on men's hair to make it smooth, esp. in former times

po·man·der /pəʊˈmændəʳ, pəˈmæn-‖ˈpəʊmændər/ *n* a box or ball-shaped container holding sweet-smelling substances, HERBS, etc., used for giving a room or cupboard a pleasant smell

pom·e·gran·ate /ˈpɒmˌgrænˌɪt‖ˈˈpɑːm-/ *n* a round thick-skinned reddish fruit containing a mass of small seeds in a red juicy flesh

pom·mel /ˈpʌməl/ *n* **1** the rounded part at the front of a horse's SADDLE –see picture at HORSE **2** the ball-shaped end of a sword handle

pommel horse /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* VAULTING HORSE

pom·my /ˈpɒmi‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* a POM

pomp /pɒmp‖pɑːmp/ *n* [U] solemn and splendid ceremonial show, esp. on a public or official occasion: *all the pomp of an imperial coronation*

Pom·pa·dour /ˈpɒmpədʊəʳ‖ˈpɑːmpədɔːr/, **Madame de** (1721–64) a MISTRESS (2) of King Louis XV of France, from 1745, who had an influence on his choice of government ministers

Pom·pei·i /pɒmˈpeɪ-i‖pɑːm-/ an ancient city in southern Italy, SE of Naples, which was buried when the VOLCANO Mount Vesuvius erupted (ERUPT) in AD 79. Pompeii was preserved underneath the volcanic ash and LAVA and has helped us to learn many things about Roman civilization.

Pom·pey /ˈpɒmpi‖ˈpɑːm-/ (106–48 BC) a Roman GENERAL (=military leader) and politician who opposed Julius Caesar but was defeated by him in 48 BC

Pomp·id·ou /ˈpɒmpˌɪdu:‖ˈpɑːm-/, **Georges** /ʒɔːʒ‖ʒɔːrʒ/ (1911–74) a French politician who was president of France from 1969 until his death

Pompidou Cen·tre /ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*] a MUSEUM in Paris which has paintings by important 20th century artists. The museum building, which is very modern, is made of glass and of metal tubes in bright colours.

pom·pom /ˈpɒmpɒm‖ˈpɑːmpɑːm/ *n* **1** a small woollen ball used as a decoration on garments, esp. hats **2** also **pom-pon** /-pɒn ‖ -pɑːn/ a round ball made of loose plastic strings used by CHEERLEADERS, who used to be called pompom girls

pom·pous /ˈpɒmpəs‖ˈpɑːm-/ *adj derog* foolishly solemn and thinking oneself to be important. Pompous words or phrases are marked *pomp* in this dictionary: *The railway guard was a pompous little official, who acted as though he controlled the whole railway system.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness, -posity** /pɒmˈpɒsˌɪti‖pɑːmˈpɑː-/ *n* [U]

ponce[1] /pɒns‖pɑːns/ *n BrE* **1** *derog sl* a man who acts in an EFFEMINATE way **2** a man who lives with, and on the money earned by, a PROSTITUTE; a PIMP

ponce[2] *v*

ponce about/around *phr v* [I] *BrE derog sl* (of a man) to act like a PONCE[1] (1), or in a foolish time-wasting way

Ponce de Le·ón /ˌpɒns də ˈliːən‖ˌpɑːns-/, **Juan** /wɑːn‖hwɑːn/ (1460–1521) a Spanish man who discovered Florida when he was searching for the FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH (a flow of water which was supposed to make people young forever)

pon·cho /ˈpɒntʃəʊ‖ˈpɑːn-/ *n* **-chos** a garment for the top half of the body consisting of a single piece of usu. thick woollen cloth, rather like a BLANKET, with a hole in the middle for the head

ponc·y, -ey /ˈpɒnsi‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj BrE derog sl* like or typical of a PONCE[1] (1): *wearing a poncy little pale blue bow tie*

pond /pɒnd‖pɑːnd/ *n* an area of still water smaller than a lake, esp. one that has been artificially made: *The farm has a pond from which cattle can drink.* | *a duck pond* – compare LAKE[1] (1), POOL

pon·der /ˈpɒndəʳ‖ˈpɑːn-/ *v* [I (**on, over**);T] to spend time in carefully considering (a fact, difficulty, etc.): *She pondered for some minutes before giving an answer.* | *Successive committees have pondered over this problem without finding a solution.* | *The cabinet would do well to ponder the advisability of such a course of action.* [+*v-ing*] *They're pondering moving their offices outside London.* [+*wh-*] *We pondered whether to tell him.*

pon·der·ous /ˈpɒndərəs‖ˈpɑːn-/ *adj fml* **1** slow and awkward because of great size and weight; UNWIELDY: *The elephant lowered its ponderous body into the water.* | (fig., *derog*) *the ponderous government machinery of Whitehall* **2** *derog* dull and solemn; lacking lightness or grace: *a ponderous style of writing* | *the city's ponderous architecture* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

pone /pəʊn/ *n* [U] CORN PONE

pong /pɒŋ‖pɑːŋ/ *v, n* [I] *BrE infml derog* (to make) an unpleasant smell –~**y** *adj* : *pongy socks*

pon·iard /ˈpɒnjəd‖ˈpɑːnjərd/ *n* a small pointed knife used in former times as a weapon

Pon·ti·ac /ˈpɒtiæk‖ˈpɑːn-/ *tdmk* an American car made by General Motors

pon·tiff /ˈpɒntˌɪf‖ˈpɑːn-/ *n tech for* POPE

pon·tif·i·cal /pɒnˈtɪfɪkəl‖pɑːn-/ *adj tech* **1** with a priest of high rank in charge: *a pontifical high mass* **2** of or from a POPE: *a pontifical letter*

pon·tif·i·cate[1] /pɒnˈtɪfˌɪkeɪt‖pɑːn-/ *v* [I (**about, on**)] *derog* to give one's opinion or judgment as if it were the only correct one: *Why must Father always pontificate about the duties of women?*

pon·tif·i·cate[2] /pɒnˈtɪfɪkˌɪt‖pɑːn-/ *n tech* the position or period of office of a POPE: *during the pontificate of John XXIII*

Pon·tins /ˈpɒntɪnz‖ˈpɑːn-/ *tdmk* the name of several holiday villages in Britain where people go in the summer and where lots of entertainment is provided at a reasonable price, which made them popular with families and other less wealthy sections of British society: *We always go to Pontins for our holidays.*–see also BUTLINS

Pontius Pilate see Pontius PILATE

pon·toon[1] /pɒnˈtuːn‖pɑːn-/ *n* a floating hollow metal container or flat-bottomed boat that is fastened to others side by side to support a floating bridge (**pontoon bridge**) across a river

pontoon[2] *n* [U] *BrE for* BLACKJACK (1)

po·ny /ˈpəʊni/ *n* **1** a small horse –see also PIT PONY, SHANKS'S PONY, SHETLAND PONY **2** *AmE infml* a very small bottle of an alcoholic drink: *Could I have a pony of gin, please?*

Pony Club /ˈ·· ·/ [*the*] a British club which arranges horse riding activities for children

pony ex·press /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* an American postal service in the 1860s which used horses and riders to take the post from Missouri to California. It moved the post much more quickly than any other way.

po·ny·tail /ˈpəʊniteɪl/ *n* hair tied in a bunch high at the back of the head and falling like a horse's tail: *She has a ponytail/wears her hair in a ponytail.* –compare PIGTAIL, PLAIT

pony-trek·king /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *BrE* a holiday activity or sport in which people ride across the country on ponies

poo also **pooh** /puː/ ‖ also **poo-poo** /ˈ· ·/, **poop** *AmE*– *n infml* **1** [U] (used esp. by and to children) solid waste from the bowels; EXCREMENT **2** [S] (used esp. by and to children) an act of passing this waste from the body: *Mummy, Lucy's done a poo.* –**poo** *v* [I;T] *infml* : *Bobby's pooed his pants.*

pooch /puːtʃ/ *n infml, usu. humor* a dog

poo·dle /ˈpuːdl/ *n* **1** a dog with thick curling hair, often cut in special shapes –see picture at DOG **2 be someone's poodle** *BrE humor derog* to be too ready to obey someone or support them in whatever they do

poof, pouf /puːf, pʊf/ also **poof·ter** /ˈpuːftəʳ, ˈpʊf-/– *n BrE & AustrE derog sl* a male HOMOSEXUAL –~**y** *adj*

pooh /puː/ *interj infml* (used for expressing dislike of an unpleasant smell)

Pooh also **Pooh Bear** /ˌ· ˈ·/ see WINNIE THE POOH

pooh-pooh /ˌ· ˈ·/ *v* [T] *infml* to express a very low opinion of (an idea, suggestion, effort, etc.) and say that one does not think it will work: *I thought it was quite a good idea, but she pooh-poohed it.*

Pooh·sticks /ˈpuːstɪks/ *n* [U] a game played by children (and some adults) in which sticks are thrown into a stream above a bridge, after which the players watch to see which stick appears at the other side of the bridge first (from the stories of Winnie the Pooh, in which the game is described).

pool[1] /puːl/ *n* **1** a small area of still water in a hollow place, usu. naturally formed: *a rock pool* (=among rocks on the sea shore) **2** [(**of**)] a small amount of any liquid poured or dropped on a surface: *The wounded man was lying in a pool of blood.* **3** a SWIMMING POOL: *They had a dip in the hotel pool before lunch.* **4** a deeper part of a river where the water is almost still —compare POND

pool[2] *n* **1** [C] a supply of money, goods, workers, etc., which is shared between and may be used by a number of people: *a pool of skilled labour* —see also CAR POOL, TYPING POOL **2** [C] an amount of money collected from all the players in certain card games, which forms the winner's prize **3** [U] an American game of BILLIARDS played usu. with 15 numbered balls on a table that has six holes —compare SNOOKER[1]; see also POOLS

pool[3] *v* [T] to combine; share; bring together for the advantage of everyone in a group: *If we pool our ideas, we may be able to produce a really good plan.* | *None of us can afford it separately, so let's pool our resources.*

Poole /puːl/ a town and port on the SW coast of England, on **Poole Harbour**, a large natural sheltered area of water with an opening to the sea.

pool hall /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* POOLROOM

pool·room /ˈpuːlruːm, -rʊm/ *n* a place where one can play pool. Poolrooms are often dark and filled with smoke and used mostly by men.

pools /puːlz/ also **football pools** *fml*— *n* [*the*+P] (esp. in Britain) an arrangement by which people risk small amounts of money on the results of certain football matches, and those who guess the results correctly win large shares of the combined money. Many people do this, even people who are not particularly interested in football: *He's just won £1000 on the pools.*

poop /puːp/ *n* **1** *tech* the back end of a ship **2** also **poop deck** /ˈ· ·/— the raised floor level at this end **3** *AmE sl* information, esp. with a dependable but unofficial origin: *Who can give me the poop on this new computer?* **4** *AmE for* POO

pooped /puːpt/ also **pooped out** /ˌ· ˈ·/— *adj* [F] *infml, esp. AmE* very tired

pooper *n* see PARTY POOPER

poo-poo /ˈ· ·/ *AmE for* POO

poop-scoop /ˈ· ·/ also **poop·er-scoop·er** /ˈpuːpə ˌskuːpəʳ ‖-pər-/— *n infml* a small spade-like device used by dog owners for removing dog EXCREMENT from the streets. In many towns and cities it is a crime for people not to clean up after their dogs, so they take a poop-scoop with them when they take their dogs for a walk.

poor /pʊəʳ/ *adj* **1** having very little money and therefore a low standard of living: *He was too poor to buy shoes for his family.* | *a poor neighbourhood with high unemployment* [also *n, the*+P] *This government has helped the rich but done nothing to improve the condition of the poor.* **2** *rather fml* far below the usual standard; low in quality; INFERIOR: *The weather has been very poor this summer.* | *They blamed the situation on poor management.* | *My German is rather poor, and I couldn't make myself understood.* **3** *rather fml* less than is needed or expected; small in size or quantity: *We had a poor crop of beans this year.* **4** *rather fml* (of health) weak; not good: *He's still in poor health after his illness.* **5** [A] *derog* (of someone who loses) showing displeasure instead of praising one's opponent: *He gets angry when he loses a game — he's a poor loser.* **6** [A] deserving or causing pity; unlucky: *Poor David has failed his driving test again.*

poor boy /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* SUBMARINE SANDWICH

poor·house /ˈpʊəhaʊs‖ˈpʊər-/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ (in former times) a building provided by public money where poor people could live and be fed —see also WORKHOUSE

poor law /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [*the*] (in Britain in former times) a group of laws concerning help for poor people **2** [C] any of these laws

poor·ly[1] /ˈpʊəli‖ˈpʊərli/ *adv rather fml* **1** badly; not well: *poorly dressed* | *poorly paid* | *They did poorly in the exam.* **2 think poorly of** to have a bad or low opinion of

poorly[2] *adj* [F] *infml, esp. BrE* ill: *I'm feeling rather poorly today.*

poorly off /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [F] **1** having very little money **2** [(**for**)] not having enough (of): *The school is poorly off for textbooks.* —opposite **well-off**

poor-mouth /ˈ· ·/ *v* [I;T] *AmE* to say that something or someone is not as good as it really is: *He poor-mouths his achievements because he thinks other people don't like really clever people.*

poor·ness /ˈpʊənɨs‖ˈpʊər-/ *n* [U (**of**)] *rather fml* lowness (of quality); lack of a desired quality: *the poorness of the quality of the materials* —compare POVERTY

poor re·la·tion /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *n* a person or thing that is the lowest or least important one among similar people or things: *Theatre musicians are often treated like the poor relations of the musical profession.*

poor-spir·it·ed /ˌ· ˈ···◂/ *adj lit derog* not brave; lacking confidence or courage — ~**ly** *adv*

poor white trash /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE derog* poor white people who are not well educated and of the lowest social level

pop[1] /pɒp‖pɑːp/ *v* **-pp-** **1** [I;T] to (cause to) make a short sharp explosive sound: *The champagne cork popped when I pulled it out.* | *He blew the bag up and then popped it between his hands.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to move quickly or suddenly away from a surface; spring: *The child's eyes almost popped out of her head with excitement.* | *A button popped off my shirt when I sneezed.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to go or come suddenly, quickly, or unexpectedly: *I've just popped in to return your book.* | *I'm afraid she's just popped out for a few minutes.* | *Pop down to the shops and get a bottle of milk.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *infml* to put quickly and lightly: *He popped his head round the door.* | *I'll just pop this cake in the oven.* **5** [T] *AmE infml* to use (PILLS) too often: *He was popping pills all afternoon, trying to calm his nerves.* **6** [T] *BrE old-fash sl for* PAWN[1] **7 pop one's clogs** *BrE infml humor* to die, esp. unexpectedly **8 pop the question** *infml* to ask someone to marry you

pop off *phr v* [I] *infml* to die, esp. unexpectedly

pop up *phr v* [I] *infml* **1** to happen or appear suddenly or unexpectedly —see also POP-UP **2** (in BASEBALL) to hit a ball into the air so that it does not travel very far away from the hitter: *He popped up to first* (=he hit the ball in the air towards the player at first base)

pop[2] *n* **1** [C] a sound like that of a slight explosion: *When he opened the bottle it* **went pop.** (=made this sound) **2** [U] also **soda** *esp. AmE— infml,* a sweet FIZZY drink, usu. made to taste of a particular fruit: *a bottle of pop*

pop[3] *n* [U] modern popular music of a simple kind with a strong beat and not usu. of lasting interest, liked esp. by younger people: *I don't like classical music; I prefer pop.* | *pop music* | *a pop concert* —compare ROCK[3], ROCK 'N' ROLL

pop[3] *n* [U] POP MUSIC: *I don't like classical music; I prefer pop.*

pop[4] *n esp. AmE infml* a father: *Can I borrow the car, pop?*

pop[5] *abbrev. for:* population

pop·a·dum /ˈpɒpədəm‖ˈpɑː-/ also **papadum, poppadum** — *n* a very thin flat Indian bread cooked in hot fat

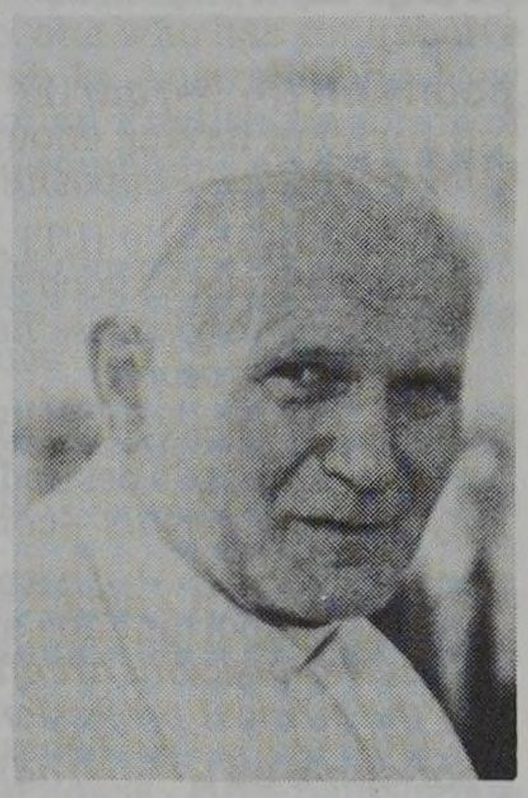
pop art /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n* [U] a form of modern art which shows common objects from everyday life, such as advertisements, articles found around the house, etc., rather than the usual subjects of art —compare OP ART

pop·corn /ˈpɒpkɔːn‖ˈpɑːpkɔːrn/ *n* [U] a type of MAIZE that swells and bursts open when heated, usu. eaten warm with salt and butter or sweetened with sugar. People often eat popcorn while they are watching a film at the cinema.

pope /pəʊp/ *n* (*often cap.*) **1** the head of the Roman Catholic Church: *The Pope will visit Britain next year.* | *Pope John XXIII* —compare PAPAL **2 Is the Pope Catholic?** *infml humor* (said to show that something is thought to be true or clear to everybody): *"Bill got stopped by the police for drunken driving." "Will he lose his licence?" "Is the Pope Catholic?"* (=he most certainly will lose it). See picture on page 1022

Pope, Al·ex·an·der /ˌælɪgˈzɑːndəʳ‖-ˈzæn-/ (1688–1744) a British SATIRICAL poet who wrote the *Rape of the Lock*, which describes the foolishness of fashionable people

the Pope



pop·e·ry /ˈpəʊpəri/ *n* [U] *derog, esp. old use* the teachings and forms of worship of the Roman Catholic Church

pope's nose /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* PARSON'S NOSE

Pop·eye /ˈpɒpaɪ‖ˈpɑː-/ a popular American CARTOON character. Popeye is a SAILOR who smokes a pipe and when he eats SPINACH his muscles grow bigger and he becomes very strong.

pop-eyed /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj infml* having the eyes wide open, esp. with surprise or excitement

pop fly /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in BASEBALL) a ball which is hit into the air and travels only a short distance: *a pop fly to first base*

Pop Goes the Wea·sel /ˌ· · · ˈ··/ the title of an old children's song:

Half a pound of tuppenny rice,
Half a pound of treacle;
That's the way the money goes,
Pop goes the weasel!

pop group /ˈ· ·/ *n* a group of people who sing and/or play POP[3]

pop·gun /ˈpɒpgʌn‖ˈpɑːp-/ *n* a toy gun that fires small objects, esp. CORKS[1] (2), with a loud noise

pop·in·jay /ˈpɒpɪndʒeɪ‖ˈpɑː-/ *n derog old use* a showily-dressed young man who is full of self-admiration

pop·ish /ˈpəʊpɪʃ/ *adj derog, esp. old use* Roman Catholic – ~**ness** *n* [U]

pop·lar /ˈpɒpləʳ‖ˈpɑːp-/ *n* a very tall straight thin tree

pop·lin /ˈpɒplɪn‖ˈpɑːp-/ *n* [U] a strong shiny cotton cloth: *a poplin shirt*

Pop·o·cat·é·pet·l /ˌpɒpəkætəˈpetl‖ˌpəʊ-/ a mountain in Mexico, known in Britain esp. because its name is difficult to say

pop·o·ver /ˈpɒpəʊvəʳ‖ˈpɑː-/ *n AmE* a light hollow cake made with eggs, milk, and flour and often filled with fruit: *an apple popover* –compare TURNOVER (4)

pop·pa /ˈpɒpə‖ˈpɑːpə/ *n AmE infml* a father

pop·pa·dum /ˈpɒpədəm‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* a POPADUM

pop·per /ˈpɒpəʳ‖ˈpɑː-/ *n infml for* PRESS-STUD

Popper, Sir Karl /kɑːl‖kɑːrl/ (1902–) a British thinker (PHILOSOPHER) who thought that ideas about the world must be able to be shown scientifically to be true or false

pop·pet /ˈpɒpɪt‖ˈpɑː-/ *n BrE infml* a child or animal that one loves or that pleases one: *Come here, poppet.* | *Look at that little dog. Isn't he a poppet!*

Poppy Day



pop·py /ˈpɒpi‖ˈpɑːpi/ *n* a plant that has brightly coloured flowers, esp. red ones

►CULTURAL NOTE For British people the poppy represents the soldiers who died in the two World Wars (particularly the First World War) because these flowers grew in the fields of France where many were buried. At the beginning of November, near Remembrance Day (often called **Poppy Day**), many people buy red poppies made of paper to show that they remember the men who died. –see also REMEMBRANCE DAY◄

pop·py·cock /ˈpɒpɪkɒk‖ˈpɑːpɪkɑːk/ *n* [U] *infml* foolish nonsense: *He's talking pure poppycock!*

pop·py·seed /ˈpɒpɪsiːd‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* the small black seeds of the poppy plant used in food, esp. bread or cakes: *poppyseed rolls*

pops /pɒps‖pɑːps/ *adj AmE* (of music) being or connected with familiar CLASSICAL music or popular music played by an ORCHESTRA: *a pops concert* | *Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra*

Pop·si·cle /ˈpɒpsɪkəl‖ˈpɑː-/ *n AmE tdmk for* ICE LOLLY

pop sing·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person who sings pop songs

pop song /ˈ· ·/ *n* a modern popular song usu. of a simple kind with a strong beat, liked esp. by young people

pop·ˌstar /ˈpɒpstɑːʳ‖ˈpɑːp-/ *n* a famous and successful POP[3] musician

pop·u·lace /ˈpɒpjʊləs‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [*the*+*sing./pl. v*] *fml* all the people of a country, esp. those without high social position, wealth, etc.; the MASSES: *Panic had spread among the populace as a result of the rumours.*

pop·u·lar /ˈpɒpjʊləʳ‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj* **1** [(**with**)] liked by many people: *a popular holiday resort* | *a popular decision that almost everyone approved of* | *That teacher's very popular with her pupils.* | (*humor*) *You'll be popular when they find out you've broken their window!* (=they will be angry with you) –opposite **unpopular** **2** general; common; widespread: *"Mary" used to be quite a popular name for a girl.* **3** [A] *sometimes derog* suited to the understanding, liking, or needs of most ordinary people: *popular science* | *The popular newspapers take a great interest in the royal family.* **4** [A *no comp.*] of or from the general public: *popular opinion* | *The TV series was brought back* **by popular demand**. (=because lots of people wanted it) | *a policy that enjoys wide popular support* | *It's a popular misconception* (=lots of people think, wrongly) *that nearly all snakes are poisonous.* –see also POPULARLY

popular cap·i·tal·is·m /ˌ··· ˈ·····/ *n* [U] a RIGHT-WING political and economic system where the aim is for people to pay lower taxes and for the government to spend less money on houses, hospitals etc. The government also encourages people to buy their own homes and to start their own small businesses. These ideas were particularly fashionable in Britain during the 1980s.

pop·u·lar·i·ty /ˌpɒpjʊˈlærətiˌpɑː-/ *n* [U] the quality of being well liked, approved of, or admired: *the President's declining popularity* –opposite **unpopularity**

pop·u·lar·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpɒpjʊləraɪz‖ˈpɑː-/ *v* [T] **1** to cause to be well known and generally liked or used: *Reggae music was popularized by Bob Marley in the 1970s.* **2** to make (a difficult subject or idea) easily understandable to ordinary people –**-ization** /ˌpɒpjʊləraɪˈzeɪʃənˌpɑːpjʊlərə-/ *n* [U]

pop·u·lar·ly /ˈpɒpjʊləli‖ˈpɑːpjʊlərli/ *adv* generally; by most people: *It's popularly believed that taking large amounts of vitamin C cures colds.*

popular press /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] newspapers read by less educated people and which are more concerned with sex, violence, funny events, and the private lives of film or TV stars than with national and international news – see also GUTTER PRESS, TABLOID; compare QUALITY PAPER

pop·u·late /ˈpɒpjʊleɪt‖ˈpɑː-/ *v* [T] **1** [*often pass.*] (of a group) to live in (an area); INHABIT: *This side of the island is populated mainly by fishermen.* | *a densely-populated area* **2** (of a group) to come and live in (an area): *The new land was quickly populated by settlers from abroad.*

pop·u·la·tion /ˌpɒpjʊˈleɪʃənˌpɑː-/ *n* [*usu sing.*] **1** the number of people living in a particular area, country, etc.: *What was the population of Europe in 1900?* | *There's been a real* **population explosion** *here over the last decade.* (=the population has become very much larger) | *a city with a population of almost two million* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] the people living in an area: *Half the world's population doesn't get enough to eat.* **3** [+*sing./pl. v*] a particular group or type of people or animals living in a particular

place: *He has a lot of support among the country's white population.* | *the elephant population of Kenya*

pop·u·list /ˈpɒpjʊlɨst‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* **1** *often derog* a person who claims to believe in the wisdom and judgment of ordinary people, esp. in political matters **2** (*often cap.*) (esp. in the US) a member of a political party that claims to represent ordinary people —**-lism** *n* [U]

pop·u·lous /ˈpɒpjʊləs‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj* (of a place) having a large population, esp. when compared with size: *London is the most populous area of Britain.* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

pop-up /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] made in such a way that what is inside can spring up or out: *a pop-up toaster* | *a pop-up book*

Pop War·ner /ˌ· ˈ··/ an American organization which teaches children to play FOOTBALL (2) in teams

porce·lain /ˈpɔːslɨn‖ˈpɔːrsəlɨn/ also **china**— *n* [U] (articles made of) a hard white substance made by baking a special sort of fine clay at a high temperature: *a porcelain figure* —compare EARTHENWARE

porch /pɔːtʃ‖pɔːrtʃ/ *n* **1** a roofed entrance built out from a house or church —see pictures at CHURCH and HOUSE **2** *AmE for* VERANDA

por·cine /ˈpɔːsaɪn‖ˈpɔːr-/ *adj tech or derog* of or like a pig

porcupine



por·cu·pine /ˈpɔːkjʊpaɪn‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* a short-legged animal that has long sharp QUILLS all over its back and sides —compare HEDGEHOG

pore[1] /pɔːʳ/ *n* a very small opening, esp. in the skin, through which liquids, esp. SWEAT[2] (1), can pass

pore[2] *v*

pore over sthg. *phr v* [T] to study or give close attention to (usu. something written or printed): *many hours spent in the library poring over musty documents*

pork /pɔːk‖pɔːrk/ *n* [U] meat from pigs: *a pork chop* — compare BACON, HAM[1] (1); see MEAT (USAGE)

pork bar·rel /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE sl* a government plan to spend a lot of money in an area in order to gain political advantage: *The party won a great increase in votes as a result of its pork-barrel politics.*

pork·er /ˈpɔːkəʳ‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* **1** a young pig, made specially fat before being killed for food **2** *humor* a pig

pork pie /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* **1** [C;U] (esp. in Britain) a small usu. round baked pastry case containing small pieces of cooked pork **2** [C] *BrE infml humor* a lie: *He told quite a few pork pies at that interview!*

pork·pie hat /ˌpɔːkpaɪ ˈhæt‖ˌpɔːrk-/ *n BrE* a hat shaped like a pork pie, popular with followers of SKA music

pork rinds /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [P] *AmE* for SCRATCHINGS

pork·y /ˈpɔːki‖ˈpɔːrki/ *adj infml* (esp. of a person) fat

Porky Pig /ˌ·· ˈ·/ an American television CARTOON character

porn /pɔːn‖pɔːrn/ *n* [U] *infml* pornography —**porn, por·no** /ˈpɔːnəʊ‖ˈpɔːr-/ *adj* : *a porno movie* | *the porn king|queen of Soho* (=the most important man or woman in the pornography business in Soho)

por·nog·ra·phy /pɔːˈnɒgrəfi‖pɔːrˈnɑːg-/ *n* [U] **1** *derog* the treatment of sexual subjects in pictures, writing or film in a way that is meant to cause sexual excitement **2** books, photographs, films, etc., containing this: *Police have seized several consignments of pornography.*

►CULTURAL NOTE Although people are often too embarrassed or ashamed to admit that they read pornographic magazines, you can find them in most shops which sell newspapers and many people buy them, esp. men. The type of pornography that you see in newspaper shops is called soft pornography and shows NAKED people, esp. women. It is considered much more acceptable than HARDCORE pornography, which is usu. sold in special sex shops and is offensive to a great many people because it shows sex in more detail and may show violent acts. Many women do not like pornography because they think it encourages bad treatment of or violence against women. There are laws about what you can show in this type of book, film etc. and people can go to prison for selling illegal pornographic materials.◄

—**-pher** *n* —**-phic** /ˌpɔːnəˈgræfɪk◂‖ˌpɔːr-/ *adj* —**-phically** /kli/ *adv*

po·rous /ˈpɔːrəs/ *adj* allowing liquid to pass slowly through: *porous soil* | *This clay pot is porous.* — ~**ness, -rosity** *tech*— /pɔːˈrɒsɨti‖-ˈrɑː-, pə-/ *n* [U]

por·poise /ˈpɔːpəs‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* a fishlike sea animal rather like a DOLPHIN that swims about in groups —see picture at DOLPHIN

por·ridge /ˈpɒrɪdʒ‖ˈpɑː-, ˈpɔː-/ *BrE* ‖ **oatmeal** *AmE*— *n* [U] **1** a soft breakfast food made by boiling OATMEAL (=crushed grain) in milk or water. Porridge used to be typical of Scotland but is now eaten everywhere in Britain and the US. **2** *BrE sl* a period of time spent in prison: *"Where's Mick got to?" "He's* **doing porridge**."

Porridge a British television COMEDY programme about life in prison, with Ronnie Barker as the main actor

Porsche /pɔːʃ, ˈpɔːʃə‖-ɔːr-/ *n tdmk* a very expensive type of car, often associated with rich young men

port[1] /pɔːt‖pɔːrt/ *n* **1** [C;U] a place where ships can load and unload people or goods; HARBOUR: *The main problem is getting the food from the ports to the interior of the country.* | *ships coming into|leaving port* **2** [C] (*sometimes cap. as part of a name*) a town with a HARBOUR or DOCKS, on a sea coast or on a river: *London used to be Britain's largest port.* | *Port Said* **3 any port in a storm** any means of escape from trouble must be accepted, even if it has some disadvantages —see also AIRPORT, FREE PORT, PORT OF CALL, PORT OF ENTRY

port[2] *n* [U] the left side of a ship or aircraft as one faces forward: *The damaged ship was leaning over to port.* | *on the port side* —compare STARBOARD

port[3] *n* [U] strong usu. sweet dark Portuguese wine, usu. drunk after a meal. In Britain in the past, after formal dinner parties, the men would stay behind to have a glass of port while the women went into another room.

port[4] *v* **port arms** (*usu. imperative*) (of a soldier) to hold a RIFLE in a sloping position across the body, so that it can be examined by an officer

port[5] *n tech* an opening on a computer by which connections can be made with other pieces of equipment such as printers or DISK DRIVES

por·ta·ble /ˈpɔːtəbəl‖ˈpɔːr-/ *adj* that can be (easily) carried or moved; quite small and light: *a portable television|typewriter* | (fig.) *a portable pension* (=that can be moved from one job to another) —**-bility** /ˌpɔːtəˈbɪlɨti‖ˌpɔːr-/ *n* [U]

por·ta·crib /ˈpɔːtəkrɪb‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n AmE tdmk* a CARRYCOT —see picture at BED

Por·ta·kab·in /ˈpɔːtəkæbɨn‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n tdmk* a small hut which can be moved by LORRY and used as a temporary office, etc., esp. while a new building is being built

por·tals /ˈpɔːtlz‖ˈpɔːrtlz/ *n* [P (**of**)] *fml or pomp* **1** a very large and important-looking entrance to a building, esp. considered as representing the organization, company, etc., that uses that building **2** a beginning; THRESHOLD (2): *standing at the portals of happiness*

port·cul·lis /pɔːtˈkʌlɨs‖pɔːrt-/ *n* (in old castles, forts, etc.) a strong gatelike structure of bars with points at the bottom, hung above an entrance and lowered as a protection against attack —see picture at CASTLE

por·tend /pɔːˈtend‖pɔːr-/ *v* [T] *fml or lit* to be a sign or warning of (a future unpleasant event): *What do these strange events portend?*

por·tent /ˈpɔːtent‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n fml or lit* [(**of**)] a clear sign or warning, esp. of something strange or unpleasant; OMEN: *Dark clouds are gathering, portents of war.*

por·ten·tous /pɔːˈtentəs‖pɔːr-/ *adj esp. lit* **1** *fml derog* solemnly self-important; POMPOUS **2** that warns or tells of future unpleasant events; threatening — ~**ly** *adv*

por·ter[1] /ˈpɔːtəʳ‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* **1** a person employed to carry travellers' bags at railway stations, airports, etc. Most people now carry their own bags or use a TROLLEY. **2** a person employed to carry loads at markets **3** *esp. BrE* a person in charge of the entrance to a hotel, school, hospital, etc. —compare JANITOR (2) **4** *AmE* an attendant employed in a sleeping-carriage in a train

porter[2] *n* [U] (esp. in former times) a dark brown bitter beer

Porter, Cole /kəʊl/ (1891–1964) an American COMPOSER who wrote many famous songs including *Night and Day* and *Let's Do It*. He also wrote MUSICALS and some of these,

such as *Kiss Me Kate* and *Can-Can* were made into films. The words of Cole Porter's songs are considered to be WITTY and clever and when people imagine a Cole Porter musical they think of a world of fashionable and SOPHISTICATED people.

Porter, Kath·e·rine Anne /ˈkæθərɪn æn/ (1890–1980) an American short story writer

por·ter·house /ˈpɔːtəhaʊs‖ˈpɔːrtər-/ also **porterhouse steak** /ˌ··· ˈ·/– *n* [C;U] (a) STEAK of high-quality BEEF

port·fo·li·o /pɔːtˈfəʊliəʊ‖pɔːrt-/ *n* **-lios** **1** a large flat case like a very large book cover, for carrying drawings, business papers, etc. **2** a collection of drawings or other papers contained in this: *The artist showed us a portfolio of her drawings.* **3** a collection of different business shares owned by a particular person or company: *an investment portfolio* **4** the job of a particular government minister: *The Prime Minister offered him the foreign affairs portfolio.* | *a minister* **without portfolio** (=who is not responsible for any particular government department)

port·hole /ˈpɔːthəʊl‖ˈpɔːrt-/ *n* a small usu. circular window in the side of a ship or aircraft

por·ti·co /ˈpɔːtɪkəʊ‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* **-coes** *or* **-cos** a covered entrance to a building, sometimes consisting of a roof supported by PILLARS

por·tion[1] /ˈpɔːʃən‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* [**(of)**] **1** [C] a part of something larger, considered separately from the rest: *the front portion of the train* | *The computer factory represents only a small portion of the company's business.* | *the first portion of the book* **2** [C] a share of something that is divided among two or more people: *The driver must bear a portion of the blame for the accident* **3** [C] a standard amount of a particular food for one person as served in a restaurant: *He was hungry and ordered an extra portion of potatoes.* **4** [S] *fml or lit* a person's fate or fortune; LOT[2] (6): *Sorrow has always been her portion.*

portion[2] *v*

portion sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T **(among, between)**] to divide and give; share: *The money was portioned out among the four children.*

Port·land /ˈpɔːtlənd‖ˈpɔːrt-/ an inland port in NW Oregon, USA and the largest city in the state

port·ly /ˈpɔːtli‖ˈpɔːr-/ *adj euph or humor* (esp. of a rather old man) round and fat; STOUT: *a portly old gentleman* —**-liness** *n* [U]

port·man·teau /pɔːtˈmæntəʊ‖pɔːrt-/ *n* **-teaus** *or* **-teaux** /təʊz/ *old-fash* a very large case for a traveller's clothes, esp. one that opens into two equal parts

portmanteau word /·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* an invented word that combines the meaning and sound of two words; BLEND: *"Motel" is a portmanteau word, made up from "motor" and "hotel".*

Port·mei·ri·on /pɔːtˈmeriən‖pɔːrt-/ a small village in the Italian style in N Wales, all planned by Clough Williams-Ellis and popular with tourists

Port·o·bel·lo Road /ˌpɔːtəbeləʊ ˈrəʊd‖ˌpɔːr-/ [*(the)*] a street in W London known for its Saturday market for ANTIQUES (=furniture, jewellery, etc. made in an earlier period)

port of call /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **ports of call** **1** a port where a ship stops (regularly) for travellers, supplies, repairs, etc. **2** *infml* a place which one visits or stops at during a journey or set of activities: *My next port of call is the library.*

port of en·try /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* **ports of entry** a place such as a HARBOUR or airport where people or goods may enter a country

Port of Lon·don Au·thor·i·ty /ˌ·· ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ also **PLA** *abbrev.*– [*the*] the organization which controls the port of London

Por·ton Down /ˌpɔːtn ˈdaʊn‖ˌpɔːr-/ a place in the S of England with a government LABORATORY formerly used for studying GERM WARFARE (=the use of disease-producing bacteria in war)

Por·to Ri·co /ˌpɔːtəʊ ˈriːkəʊ‖ˌpɔːr-/ see PUERTO RICO

por·trait /ˈpɔːtrɪt‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* **1** [**(of)**] a painting, drawing, or photograph of a real person or group of people: *I commissioned her to paint my portrait.* (=a picture of me) | *a portrait painter* | (fig.) *His book gives/paints a very convincing portrait* (=description) *of life in medieval England.* —*see picture at* CARICATURE **2** PORTRAIT MODE

portrait mode /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *tech* **in portrait mode** (of paper, or a picture on a page) with the shorter edge from left to right (HORIZONTAL) and the longer edge from top to bottom (VERTICAL): *I can't get my file to print out in portrait mode.* —compare LANDSCAPE MODE

Portrait of the Ar·tist as a Young Man /ˌ·· · · ˌ·· · · ˌ· ˈ·/ a book by James Joyce based on the story of his own life

por·trai·ture /ˈpɔːtrɪtʃəʳ‖ˈpɔːr-/ *n* [U] the art of making portraits

por·tray /pɔːˈtreɪ‖pɔːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to be or make a representation or description of: *This painting portrays the death of Nelson.* | *The writer portrays life in a refugee camp very vividly.* **2** [**(as)**] to describe according to one's opinion: *In British history books Richard III is usually portrayed as a wicked man.* **3** to act the part of (a particular character) in a play —~**al** *n* [C;U **(of)**] : *The actor's portrayal of Othello was superb.*

Ports·mouth /ˈpɔːtsməθ‖ˈpɔːr-/ a town and port on the S coast of England, known for its navy base and as a place from which ferries (FERRY[1]) go to France

Port Stan·ley /ˌ· ˈ··/ the capital of the Falkland Islands. It was the centre of attention during the Falklands War of 1982 as the place where the war started and ended.

Port Tal·bot /pɔːt ˈtɔːlbət‖pɔːrt-/ a port and industrial town in S Wales

Por·tu·gal /ˈpɔːtʃʊgəl‖ˈpɔːr-/ a country in SW Europe, W of Spain, bordering the Atlantic; capital Lisbon; population 10,467,000 (1989). Portugal is a popular holiday place for British people.

Por·tu·guese /ˌpɔːtʃʊˈgiːz◂‖ˌpɔːr-/ *n* **1** [*the* +P] people from Portugal **2** [U] of the language of Portugal, Brazil, etc. —**Portuguese** *adj* : *I'm Portuguese.*|*Portuguese wine*

Portuguese man-of-war /ˌ··· · · ˈ·/ *n* a large JELLYFISH with long poisonous parts (TENTACLES) hanging beneath its floating body

pose[1] /pəʊz/ *v* **1** [I **(for)**; T] to (cause to) sit or stand in a particular position, esp. in order to be photographed, painted, etc.: *After the wedding we all posed for a photograph.* **2** [T] to be the cause of (something difficult to deal with); PRESENT: *The high cost of oil poses serious problems for industry.* | *Pollution poses a threat to the continued existence of this species.* **3** [T] to ask (a question that is difficult or needs to be carefully thought about) **4** [I] *derog* to behave unnaturally or pretend to be cleverer, more artistic, etc. than one really is, in order to attract interest or admiration: *Stop posing!* —compare POSTURE[2]

pose as sthg. *phr v* [T] to pretend to be: *The spy posed as an office worker to get into the building.*

pose[2] *n* **1** a position in which someone stands, sits, etc., esp. in order to be photographed, painted, etc.: *The photographer stood his model in various poses.* **2** *derog* an unnatural way of behaving, or the act of pretending to be cleverer, more artistic, etc. than one really is, in order to attract (undeserved) interest or admiration; AFFECTATION: *He's always talking about his deep interest in literature, but it's just a pose.* —compare POSTURE[1]

Po·sei·don /pəˈsaɪdn/ the Greek name for NEPTUNE

pos·er /ˈpəʊzəʳ/ *n infml* **1** a difficult or awkward question **2** a matter that is awkward to deal with **3** *derog esp. BrE* a poseur

po·seur /pəʊˈzɜːʳ/ *n derog* somone who behaves unnaturally or pretends to be cleverer, more artistic, etc. than they really are, in order to attract attention or admiration —compare POSE[2] (2)

pos·ey /ˈpəʊzi/ *adj infml* of, or typical of, a poseur; PRETENTIOUS: *She disliked his posey remarks about how his work had influenced modern art.* | *a posey wine bar*

posh /pɒʃ‖pɑːʃ/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* **1** *usu. apprec* fashionable, splendid, and usu. expensive: *a posh hotel* **2** *sometimes derog* for or typical of people of high social class: *a posh part of town* | *a posh accent* —**posh** *adv BrE nonstandard* : *Doesn't she talk posh!*

pos·it /ˈpɒzɪt‖ˈpɑː-/ *v* [T] *fml* to suggest for the purpose of argument; POSTULATE

po·si·tion[1] /pəˈzɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a place where someone or something is or stands, esp. in relation to other objects, places, etc.: *The castle occupies a strategic position overlooking the valley.* | *This footballer usually plays in an attacking position.* | *Can you find our position on this*

map? | *The army will attack the enemy's positions.* (=places where they have placed soldiers and guns) **2** [U] the place where someone or something is supposed to be; the proper place: *The shelves are held in position by metal brackets.* | *The rocket puts the satellite into position high above the Earth.* | *The guard took up his position outside the hospital door.* **3** [C] the way in which someone or something is placed or moves, stands, sits, etc.: *He had to work in a most uncomfortable position under the car.* | *in a sitting position* **4** [C **(in)**] a particular place or rank in an organization, competition, etc.: *She finished in second position in the race.* | *This sort of scandal could be disastrous to a man in my position.* (=of my high rank in society) **5** [C *usu. sing.*] a situation; state: *It was supposed to be secret; by telling everyone, you've put me in a very difficult position.* | *In the company's present position, they can't afford to offer higher wages.* [+*to-v*] *I'd like to help you, but I'm afraid I'm not in a position/I'm in no position to do so.* (=I can't) **6** [C **(on)**] an opinion or judgment on a matter; ATTITUDE: *What's your position on this question?* [+*that*] *He* **takes the position** *that what his sister does is no concern of his.* **7** [C **(with, in)**] *fml* a job; employment: *to apply for a position with/in an oil company* | *a position of responsibility* **8 jockey/manoeuvre/jostle for position** to compete keenly in order to gain an advantage over others who are trying to get the same thing as oneself: *They knew the director's job was going to become vacant soon, and they were both jockeying for position.* —see JOB (USAGE)

▷USAGE Compare **place, position,** and **location. Place** is the ordinary word when talking about where something is or happens: *I'll show you the* **place** *where I was born.* **Position** is used to talk about the place where something is or should be in relation to other places: *He drew a plan showing the* **position** *of all the furniture in the room.* **Location** is a formal or technical word for **place** or **position:** *The company has found a suitable* **location** *for its new headquarters.*◁

position² *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to put in the stated position: *He positioned himself just by the window so he could see what was going on outside.*

po·si·tion·al /pəˈzɪʃənəl/ *adj* concerning position, esp. (in sports) the position that a player takes up on the field: *The manager made some positional changes for the next game.* (=kept the same players, but they played in different positions)

pos·i·tive¹ /ˈpɒzɨtɪv‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj* **1** [F **(of, about)**] (of a person) having no doubt; sure: *"Are you sure?" "Positive."* (=Yes, I am sure.) | *It seemed unlikely to me, but she seemed absolutely positive of/about it.* [+(*that*)] *Are you positive (that) you've never seen that man before?* **2** *often apprec* leading to practical action; CONSTRUCTIVE: *positive advice* | *positive thinking* **3** showing confidence and hope: *a positive attitude to life* **4** leaving no possibility of doubt; DEFINITE: *It's no use giving the police all these vague times and dates; they need something positive to go on.* | *These fingerprints are positive proof/proof positive that he used the gun.* **5** [*no comp.*] (in grammar) of the simple form of an adjective or adverb, which expresses no COMPARISON: *"Good" is the positive form of the adjective, "better" is the comparative.* —compare COMPARATIVE¹ (1), SUPERLATIVE¹ (1) **6** [*no comp.*] (in MATHEMATICS) (of a number or quantity) greater than zero: *Twelve is a positive amount.* **7** [*no comp.*] (of electricity) of the type that is carried by PROTONS **8** [*no comp.*] (of a photograph) having light and dark as they are in nature, not the other way around **9** (of a medical test) showing signs of the presence of a substance or growth: *The test was positive; you're pregnant!* **10** [*no comp.*] *med* having RHESUS FACTOR in the blood: *RH-positive blood* **11** [A *no comp.*] (used for giving force to a noun) complete; real: *It was a positive delight to hear her sing.* —opposite **negative** (for 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) —~**ness** *n* [U]

positive² *n* **1** (in grammar) the POSITIVE¹ (5) form of an adjective or adverb: *The positive of "prettiest" is "pretty".* **2** a POSITIVE¹ (8) photograph

positive di·scrim·i·na·tion /ˌ··· ···ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ also **affirmative action**— *n* [U] the practice or principle of favouring people who are often treated unfairly, esp. because of their sex or race —compare REVERSE DISCRIMINATION

pos·i·tive·ly /ˈpɒzɨtɪvli‖ˈpɑː-/ *adv* **1** in a POSITIVE¹ (1,4) way, esp. (as if) with certainty: *He said quite positively that he would come, and we were all surprised when he didn't.* **2** *infml* (used for adding force to an expression) really; in fact: *She's not just pretty, she's positively beautiful!* **3** *tech* in a POSITIVE¹ (7) way (esp. in the phrase **positively charged**)

positive pole /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* **1** the end of a MAGNET which turns naturally towards the Earth **2** an ANODE

positive vet·ting /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* [U] in Britain, the practice of checking certain government workers, before telling them official secrets, to make sure that they are not working against the state

pos·i·tiv·is·m /ˈpɒzɨtɪvɪzəm‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] a PHILOSOPHY (=a system of thought) based on real facts that can be experienced and proved, rather than on ideas formed in the mind —**-ist** *n*

pos·i·tron /ˈpɒzɨtrɒn‖ˈpɑːzɨtrɑːn/ *n* a very small piece of matter (ELEMENTARY PARTICLE) that is like an ELECTRON but is positively charged

poss. /pɒs‖pɑːs/ **1** *BrE infml abbrev. for:* possible: *Do it by Monday* **if poss. 2** *written abbrev. for:* POSSESSIVE¹ (2) —compare PASS.

pos·se /ˈpɒsi‖ˈpɑːsi/ also **posse com·i·ta·tus** /ˌpɒsi kɒmɪˈteɪtəs‖ˌpɑːsi kɑːm-/ *fml— n* [**(of**)] (in the US) a group of men gathered together by a SHERIFF (=local law officer) to help find a criminal or keep order: (fig.) *The film star was pursued all over the country by a posse* (=group) *of reporters.*

pos·sess /pəˈzes/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** *fml* to have as one's property, as a quality, etc.; own: *The police asked me if I possessed a gun.* **2** (of a feeling or idea) to influence (someone) so completely as to make them do esp. something foolish: [+*obj*+*to-v*] *I don't know what possessed him to* (=made him) *drive so fast down that busy street.*

pos·sessed /pəˈzest/ *adj* **1** wildly mad, (as if) controlled by an evil spirit: [after *n*] *He was waving the knife and screaming like a man possessed.* **2** [F+**of**] *fml or lit* having: *He's never been possessed of* (=had) *much sense.* —see also SELF-POSSESSED

pos·ses·sion /pəˈzeʃən/ *n* **1** [U **(of**)] the state of having, holding, or owning something; ownership: *Dangerous drugs were found* **in her possession**/*She was found* **in possession of** *dangerous drugs.* | *When her father died, she* **came into possession of** *a large fortune.* | *While our team is* **in possession/has possession** (=has the ball) *the other team can't score.* | *The police arrested him and* **took possession of** *certain substances found in his house.* (=they took the substances from him) | (*fml or pomp*) *According to facts in my possession* (=facts that I know about) *he cannot possibly be guilty.* **2** [U **(of**)] *esp. law* actual control and use: *We've bought the house, but we take/get possession (of it) before July.* **3** [C *often pl.*] a piece of personal property: *The people had to gather up their few possessions and escape to the hills.* **4** [C] a country controlled or governed by another: *Britain's former overseas possessions* **5** [U] the condition of being under the control of an evil spirit **6 possession is nine tenths/nine points of the law** a person who actually possesses a thing is in a better position to keep it than someone else who may have a better claim to own it

pos·ses·sive¹ /pəˈzesɪv/ *adj* **1** *derog* **a** unwilling to share one's own things with other people **b** wanting someone to have feelings of love or friendship only for oneself: *a possessive father who resents his daughter's boyfriends* **2** (in grammar) of or being a word that shows ownership or connection: *"My" and "its" are possessive adjectives.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

possessive² *n* (in grammar) a possessive word or form: *"Hers" is the possessive of "she".* —compare GENITIVE

pos·ses·sor /pəˈzesəʳ/ *n* [**(of)** *usu. sing.*] *fml* a person who owns or has something (often a quality rather than a piece of property): *He is the (proud) possessor of* (=he has) *a fine singing voice.*

pos·set /ˈpɒsɨt‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* a drink made from warm milk mixed with wine or beer, taken in former times to cure colds

pos·si·bil·i·ties /ˌpɒsɨˈbɪlɨtiz‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* [P] ability to be developed, improved, or made useful in the future; POTENTIAL: *The flat's in a poor condition but it has distinct possibilities if you can decorate it and clean it up a bit.*

pos·si·bil·i·ty /ˌpɒsɨˈbɪlɨti‖ˌpɑː-/ *n* **1** [S;U **(of**)] a (degree

of) likelihood: *The fire looked like an accident, but the police are still considering the possibility of* (=considering whether it could have been) *arson.* [+*that*] *"Is there any possibility that you'll be back by the weekend?" "There's a strong possibility I won't."* **2** [U] the fact of being possible: *Travel outside our solar system is not within* **the realms of possibility** (=is not possible) *at present.* **3** [C] something that is possible: *The general would not accept that defeat was a possibility.*

pos·si·ble[1] /ˈpɒsɨbəl‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj* **1** that can exist, happen, or be done: *It's no longer possible to find a cheap flat in London.* | *I'll do everything possible to help you. I'll help you* **if (at all) possible**. (=if it is possible) | *Do it* **as soon as possible**. (=as soon as you can) **2** [F] that may or may not be, happen, or be expected: *It is possible that the doctor may want you to have an X-ray.* | *The supermarket is probably closed by now, but it's possible that it's still/it will still be open.* **3** acceptable; suitable: *This is only one of many possible answers.*

possible[2] *n* **1** [*the*] that which can exist or can be done: *That's quite beyond the bounds of the possible!* (=that is completely impossible) **2** [C] a person or thing that might be suitable: *Emma's a possible for the job.*

pos·si·bly /ˈpɒsɨbli‖ˈpɑː-/ *adv* **1** in accordance with what is possible: *I'll do all I possibly can.* | *You can't possibly walk 20 miles in an hour!* (=it's impossible) **2** perhaps: *"Will you come with us tomorrow?" "Possibly, I'm not sure yet."* | (in polite requests) *Could you possibly lend me £10?*

pos·sum /ˈpɒsəm‖ˈpɑː-/ also **opossum** *esp. BrE*– *n* **possums** *or* **possum** **1** any of various types of a small tree-climbing animal found in either America or Australia **2 play possum** *infml* to pretend to be asleep or inattentive in order to deceive someone

post[1] /pəʊst/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a strong thick upright pole or bar made of wood, metal, etc., fixed into the ground or some other base, esp. as a support: *The fence was made of wooden posts and barbed wire.* | *a gatepost* | *a signpost* **2** [*the*] the finishing place in a race, esp. a horse race: *The horses galloped towards the* **winning/finishing post**. | *My horse got beaten* **at the post**. (=when it was very close to finishing the race) **3** [C] *infml for* GOALPOST: *The ball hit the post.* –see also FIRST PAST THE POST, **from pillar to post** (PILLAR), **pipped at the post** (PIP[4])

post[2] *esp. BrE* ‖ **mail** *esp. AmE*– *n* **1** [*the*;U] the official system for carrying letters, parcels, etc., from the sender to the receiver: *I sent the parcel by post.* | *My reply is in the post and you will probably receive it tomorrow.* | *The parcel got lost in the post.* –see also **by return (of post)** (RETURN[2] (6)) **2** [(*the*) S;U] (a single official collection or delivery of) letters, parcels, etc., sent by this means: *Has the post arrived?* | *A letter has come for you in the second post.* (=the second delivery of the day) | *Has any post come for me today?* **3** [*the*] *infml* an official place, box, etc., where stamped letters are left for sending: *I've just taken her birthday card down to the post.* –compare PILLAR BOX, POSTBOX, POST OFFICE; see also STAGING POST; see MAIL (USAGE)

post[3] *v* [T(OFF, **to**)] **1** *esp. BrE* ‖ **mail** *esp. AmE*– to send (a letter, parcel, etc.) by post: *I must post off all my Christmas cards this week.* | *Could you post this letter for me please?* | *I posted it (to you) on Friday.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Did you post John the book?* | (fig.) *Bring me back the key. If I'm not in when you call you can post it through my letterbox.* **2 keep someone posted** to continue to give someone all the latest news about something

post[4] *n* **1** a job: *The vacant post was advertised in today's paper.* –see JOB (USAGE) **2 a** a special place of duty, esp. on guard or on watch: *The soldier was punished for falling asleep at his post.* **b** a military base or camp –see also LAST POST, TRADING POST

post[5] ‖ also **station** *esp. AmE*– *v* [T] **1** to place (soldiers, policemen, etc.) on duty in a special place, esp. as a guard: *Pickets were posted at the factory gate.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *esp. BrE* to send or appoint to a particular army group, a place or duty with a company, etc.: *Jackson has been posted to Hong Kong/posted overseas.*

post[6] *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to put up a notice about (something) on a wall, board, post, etc., so as to make it public: *The names of the members of the team will be posted up today.* **2** [+*obj*+*adj*;*usu pass.*] to make known as being, by putting up a notice: *The ship was posted missing.*

Post[1] [*the*] **1** see SUNDAY POST **2** see WASHINGTON POST

Post[2]**, Em·i·ly** /ˈemɨli/ (1872–1960) an American writer of books and newspaper articles on ETIQUETTE (=correct behaviour)

post- see WORD FORMATION

post·age /ˈpəʊstɪdʒ/ *n* [U] the money charged for carrying a letter, parcel, etc., by post: *Please enclose £5.50 plus 99p postage.*

postage me·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a machine which puts a mark on letters and packages to show that postage has been paid and which is used mostly by businesses

postage stamp /ˈ·· ·/ *n fml for* STAMP[2] (1)

post·al /ˈpəʊstl/ *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* **1** connected with the public letter service: *Postal charges have gone up again.* **2** sent by post: *a postal reminder*

postal or·der /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* (in Britain) an official paper of a particular value which can be sent by post. The receiver can change it for money of the same value at a post office: *a 50p postal order* –compare MONEY ORDER

Postal Ser·vice /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **US Postal Service** [*the*] *AmE* the official name for the US government department responsible for collecting and delivering post

postal vote /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a vote sent through the post, esp. by a person who cannot be present to vote on the day of an election

post·bag /ˈpəʊstbæg/ *n esp. BrE* **1** [C] a postman's bag for carrying letters; MAILBAG **2** [S] *infml* all the letters received by someone at one particular time: *The magazine's advice column always gets a big postbag.*

pɔst·box /ˈpəʊstbɒks‖-bɑːks/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **mailbox, mail drop** *AmE*– *n* an official metal box in a public place, fixed to the ground or on a wall, into which people can put letters to be collected and sent by post –compare POST[2] (3); see also LETTERBOX, PILLAR BOX

post·card /ˈpəʊstkɑːd‖-kɑːrd/ *n* **1** a card of a fixed size for sending messages by post without an envelope **2** also **picture postcard** *fml*– a card like this with a picture or photograph on one side

►CULTURAL NOTE People on holiday often send postcards to friends and to people in their family who are not on holiday. The words "Wish you were here" are often mentioned in jokes as being a typical thing to write on a postcard. In many seaside towns in Britain, there are **saucy postcards** on sale. These are usu. CARTOONS, often showing a large woman with big breasts, and a small, weak-looking man, and almost always involving a joke about sex.◄

post boxes



a British post box



an American mailbox

post·code /ˈpəʊstkəʊd/ *BrE* ‖ *zip code AmE*– *n* a group of letters and/or numbers that mean a particular small area, and can be added to a postal address so that letters, etc. can be delivered more quickly

post·date /ˌpəʊstˈdeɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to write a date later than the actual date of writing on (a letter, cheque, etc.): *My rent's due on Monday and I'm not paid until Friday – I'll have to postdate the rent cheque.* –compare ANTEDATE, BACKDATE **2** to happen later in history than

post·doc·tor·al /ˌpəʊstˈdɒktərəl◂‖-ˈdɑːk-/ also **post·doc** /ˌpəʊstˈdɒk◂‖ˈdɑːk◂/ *AmE infml*– *adj* of or related to ACADEMIC or professional work following a PHD

post·er /ˈpəʊstəʳ/ *n* a large printed notice, picture, or photograph: *They put up posters all round the town advertising the circus.*

poster col·our /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* POSTER PAINT

poste res·tante /ˌpəʊstˈrestɒnt‖-resˈtɑːnt/ *BrE* ‖ **general delivery** *AmE*– *n* [U] a post office department to which letters for a traveller can be sent and where they will be kept until the person collects them

pos·te·ri·or[1] /pɒˈstɪəriəʳ‖pɑː-/ *adj* [*no comp.*] **1** [F+**to**] *fml* later (than); after **2** [A] (in BIOLOGY) nearer the back – opposite **anterior**

posterior[2] *n humor* the part of the body a person sits on; BOTTOM

pos·ter·i·ty /pɒˈsterɨti‖pɑː-/ *n* [U] (people of) the future: *His fame will* **go down to posterity.** (=He will be famous long after he is dead.) | *These wonderful paintings should be preserved for posterity.*

poster paint /ˈ·· ·/ also **poster colour**– *n* [C;U] brightly coloured paint that contains no oil, used e.g. for painting pictures, advertisements, etc.

post ex·change /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n AmE* PX

post·fem·i·nist /ˌpəʊstˈfemɨnɨst◂/ *adj* developing from and including the ideas and beliefs of FEMINISM (=a movement supporting equality for women): *a postfeminist book|writer|artist|approach*

post-free /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **postpaid** *esp. AmE*– *adj, adv* without any (further) charge to the sender for posting: *Send £2 for our post-free catalogue.* –compare FREEPOST

post·grad·u·ate /ˌpəʊstˈgrædjuɨt◂‖-ˈgrædʒuɨt◂/ also **post-grad** *infml* ‖ **graduate** *esp. AmE*– *n, adj* (a person doing studies that are) done at a university after one has received one's first degree: *a postgraduate course*

post·haste /ˌpəʊstˈheɪst/ *adv lit* at very great speed; in a great hurry

post horn /ˈ· ·/ *n* (in the 18th and 19th centuries) a horn blown by a person riding on a carriage as a warning

post·hu·mous /ˈpɒstjʊməs‖ˈpɑːstʃə-/ *adj* –~**ly** *adv* happening after someone has died: *The medal was awarded posthumously.*

post·ie /ˈpəʊsti/ *n esp. ScotE, CanE, & AustrE infml* a postman

pos·til·ion , -till- /pəˈstɪljən/ *n* (in former times) a servant who rides on any of the horses pulling a carriage when there is no driver on or in the carriage. The words "my postilion has been struck by lightning" are sometimes mentioned in jokes as being a typical, nearly useless phrase found in an old-fashioned PHRASEBOOK for English people travelling abroad.

post-im·pres·sion·is·m /ˌ· ·ˈ····/ *n* [U] a late 19th-century style of painting in which paintings have strong colour and a strong plan –~**ist** *n, adj*

post-in·dus·tri·al /ˌ· ˈ····◂/ *adj* of the period in the late 20th century when heavy industries (HEAVY INDUSTRY) have become less important, computers and ELECTRONICS more important, and people have more free time

post·ing /ˈpəʊstɪŋ/ *n* [(**to**)] *esp. BrE* an appointment to a POST[4], esp. in the armed forces: *He wasn't very pleased about his posting to a remote northern town.*

postman



post·man /ˈpəʊstmən/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **mailman** *esp. AmE*– *n* **-men** /mən/ a person whose job is to collect and deliver letters, parcels, etc. People often make jokes about postmen being chased and bitten by fierce dogs while they are delivering letters.

Postman Pat /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a character in British books and television programmes for children. Postman Pat is a happy postman who drives around in his van delivering letters and parcels with his cat, Jess.

postman's knock /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **post office** *AmE*– *n* [U] a children's game in which a player pretends to deliver a letter to another player and gets a kiss as a reward

post·mark /ˈpəʊstmɑːk‖-mɑːrk/ *n* an official mark made on a letter, parcel, etc., usu. over the stamp, showing when and from where it is sent –**postmark** *v* [T *usu. pass.*] : [+*obj*+*n*] *The parcel was postmarked Brighton.*

post·mas·ter /ˈpəʊstˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæ-/ **post·mis·tress** /-ˌmɪstrəs/ *fem.*– *n* a person in charge of a post office

Postmaster Gen·e·ral /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* **Postmasters General** a person who is in charge of a national postal system

post me·rid·i·em /ˌpəʊst məˈrɪdiəm/ *adv fml rare for* PM

post-mod·ern·is·m /ˌ· ˈ····/ a style of building, decoration, art, etc., esp. in the 1980s, which uses an unusual mixing of old and new forms –compare MODERNISM (2) – **post-modernist** *n, adj*

post·mor·tem /ˌpəʊstˈmɔːtəm‖-ˈmɔːr-/ *n* **1** also **postmortem ex·am·i·na·tion** /·ˌ·· ···ˈ··/ *fml,* **autopsy**– an examination of a dead body to discover the cause of death **2** an examination of a plan or event that failed in order to discover the cause of failure: *They held a postmortem on the company's poor sales results.*

post·na·tal /ˌpəʊstˈneɪtl◂/ *adj tech* of or for the time after a birth, or of a recently born child: *postnatal care for mother and baby* –compare ANTENATAL

post-natal de·pres·sion /ˌ· ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] an illness in which a woman feels DEPRESSED after her baby has been born

post of·fice /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* **1** [C] a building, office, shop, etc., which sells stamps, deals with the post, and does certain other government business, such as (in Britain) selling television LICENCEs and paying PENSIONS **2** [U] *AmE for* POSTMAN'S KNOCK

Post Of·fice also **GPO** *old-fash*– [*the*] the government organization responsible for the post in Britain

post office box /ˈ· ·· ˌ·/ *n fml for* P O BOX

Post Office Tow·er /ˌ· ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a former name for the TELECOM TOWER

post·paid /ˌpəʊstˈpeɪd◂/ *adj, adv esp. AmE for* POST-FREE

post·pone /pəʊsˈpəʊn/ *v* [T (**until, to**)] to delay; move to some later time: *We're postponing our holiday until August.* [+*v-ing*] *to postpone making a decision* –compare ADJOURN, CANCEL (1), – ~**ment** *n* [C;U]

post·pran·di·al /ˌpəʊstˈprændiəl◂/ *adj humor or pomp* happening just after dinner: *a postprandial snooze.*

post·script /ˈpəʊsˌskrɪpt/ also **PS** *infml*– *n* a short addition to a letter, below the place where one has signed one's name: (fig.) *He added a brief postscript to his speech, giving the latest figures.*

post-trau·mat·ic stress dis·or·der /ˌ· ·ˌ·· ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] a PSYCHOLOGICAL illness which somebody suffers as a result of a terrible experience such as a plane crash

pos·tu·lant /ˈpɒstjʊlənt‖ˈpɑːstʃə-/ *n tech* a person who is preparing to enter a religious ORDER[1] (9)

pos·tu·late[1] /ˈpɒstjʊleɪt‖ˈpɑːstʃə-/ *v* [T] *fml* to suggest (something) as being likely or as a base for further reasoning, even though it has not been proved: *Scientists have postulated a missing link to account for the development of human beings from apes.* [+*that*] *Even if we postulate that she had a motive for the murder, that still doesn't mean that she did it.*

pos·tu·late[2] /ˈpɒstjʊlɨt‖ˈpɑːstʃə-/ *n esp. tech* something supposed or known (but not proved) to be true, on which an argument or piece of scientific reasoning is based

pos·ture[1] /ˈpɒstʃəʳ‖ˈpɑːs-/ *n* **1** [S;U] the general way of holding the body when standing, walking, and sitting: *Humans have a naturally erect posture.* | *good|bad posture* **2** [C] a particular bodily position; POSE: *I had to bend over in a rather uncomfortable|embarrassing posture.* **3** [C (**on**) *usu. sing.*] a way of behaving or thinking on a particular occasion; ATTITUDE: *The government's posture on this new trade agreement seems very unhelpful.* –compare STANCE

posture[2] *v* [I] *often derog* to talk or behave unnaturally or insincerely, esp. in order to attract attention or admiration –compare POSE[1] (4) – –~**ing** [C;U] : *Despite their posturings, the politicians still haven't solved the problem.*

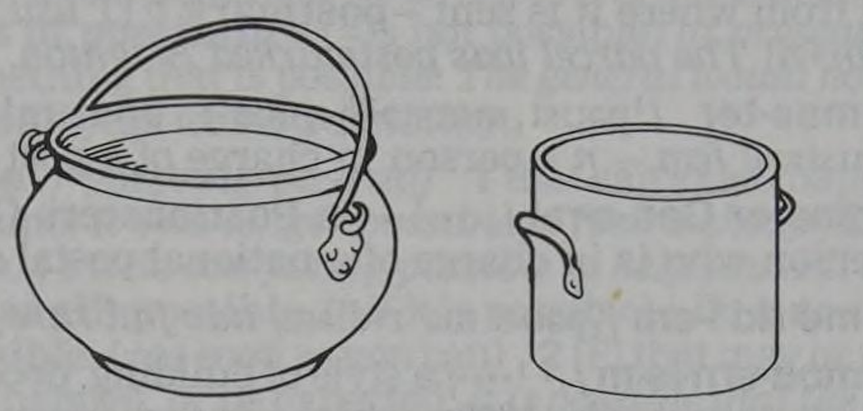
post-vi·ral syn·drome /ˌ· ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] see ME[1]

post·war /ˌpəʊstˈwɔːʳ◂/ *adj, adv* (happening or existing)

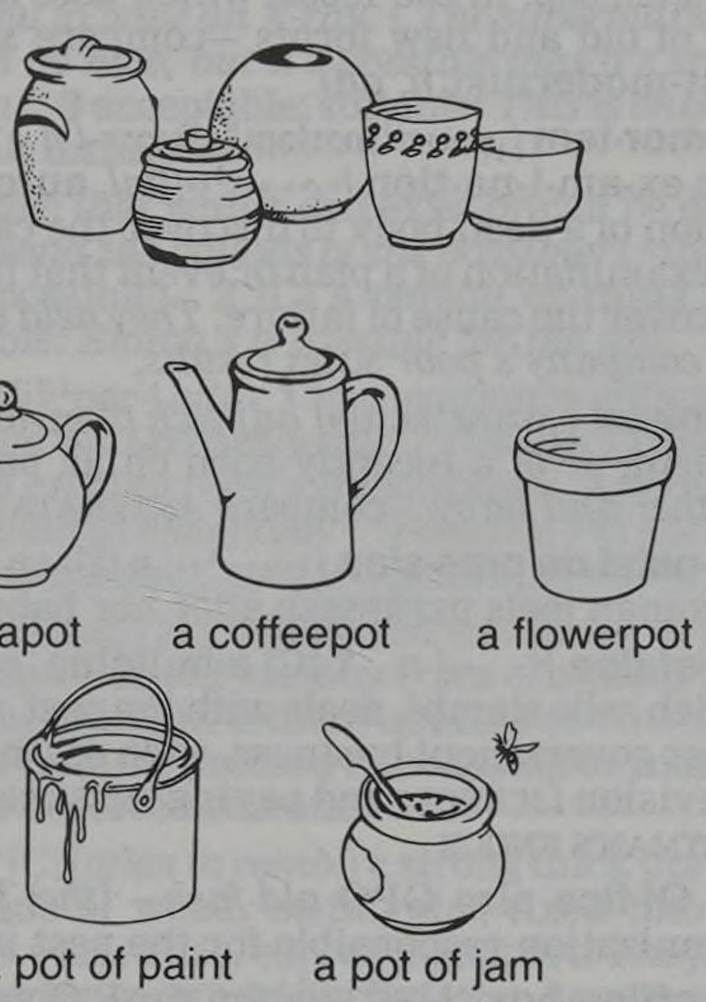
after a war, esp. the First or Second World War – compare PREWAR

po·sy[1] /ˈpəʊzi/ *n esp. lit* a small bunch of flowers

posy[2] *adj infml* POSEY



pots



a teapot a coffeepot a flowerpot a pot of paint a pot of jam

see also picture at **pan**

pot[1] /pɒt‖pɑːt/ *n* **1** [C] a round container made of metal, baked clay, glass, etc., with or without a handle or cover, made to contain liquids or solids, esp. for cooking: *a pot of jam | a plant pot | a coffeepot | Will you help me wash up all these* **pots and pans**? (=cooking containers) **2** [C (**of**)] also **pot·ful** /-fʊl/– the amount that a pot will hold: *A pot of tea for two, please.* **3** [C] *infml* a dish, bowl, or other container made by hand out of clay: *learning to make|throw pots* –see also POTTER, POTTERY **4** [C] a POTTY[2] **5** [C (**of**)] also **pots** *pl.*– *infml* a large amount (of money): *They're very rich; they've got pots of money.* **6** [(*the*) S] all the money risked on one card game, esp. POKER, and taken by the winner **7** [C] *BrE* a hit which sends the ball into any of the six small bags at the edge of the table in BILLIARDS or SNOOKER **8** [U] *sl for* MARIJUANA **9** [C] *usu. derog or humor* POTBELLY **10** [C (**at**)] *infml* a POTSHOT **11 go to pot** *infml* to become ruined or worthless, esp. from lack of care **12 the pot calling the kettle black** *infml* a person who is criticizing another person for faults that they also have themselves

pot[2] *v* **-tt-** **1** [I (**at**);T] to shoot and (try to) kill, esp. for food or sport: *potting (at) rabbits in the field* **2** [T (UP)] to put (a young plant) in a pot filled with earth –see also POTTED **3** [T] *BrE* to hit (a ball) into any of the six bags at the edge of a billiard table (BILLIARDS)

po·ta·ble /ˈpəʊtəbəl/ *adj fml or humor* (of a liquid, esp. water) suitable for drinking; drinkable

pot·ash /ˈpɒtæʃ‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] a sort of potassium used esp. in farming to make the soil produce better crops, and in making soap, strong glass, and various chemical compounds

po·tas·si·um /pəˈtæsiəm/ *n* [U] a silver-white soft easily melted metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT). It is found in nature in large quantities, but only in combination with other substances, such as in plants and rocks, and is necessary to the existence of all living things.

po·ta·tion /pəʊˈteɪʃən/ *n rare pomp or humor* **1** [*usu. pl.*] an act of drinking a lot, esp. of alcoholic drink **2** an (alcoholic) drink

po·ta·to /pəˈteɪtəʊ/ *n* **-toes** **1** [C;U] a roundish root vegetable with a thin brown or yellowish skin, that is cooked and served in many different ways: *Would you like some more roast potatoes|mashed potato?* –see also CHIP[1] **2** [C] a plant which has potatoes growing on its roots: *a field of potatoes* –see also HOT POTATO, SWEET POTATO, and see picture at VEGETABLE

potato bee·tle /ə·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a COLORADO BEETLE

potato chip /ə·ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** *BrE for* CHIP[1] (3) **2** also **chip**– *AmE Austr E for* CRISP[1]

potato crisp /ə·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a CRISP[1]

Potato Fam·ine /ə·ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] the failure of the potato crop in Ireland in 1845, which led to the deaths of many Irish people, and the movement of others to England and the US

potato pee·ler /ə·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a special piece of equipment, usu. similar to a knife, used for removing the skin of potatoes

pot·bel·ly /ˈpɒtˌbeli‖ˈpɑːt-/ also **pot**– *n usu. derog or humor* a large rounded noticeable stomach. In Britain and the US, a potbelly is not considered to be attractive. **–-lied** *adj*

pot·boil·er /ˈpɒtˌbɔɪləʳ‖ˈpɑːt-/ *n derog* a book, article, painting, etc. of low quality produced quickly in order to get money

pot·bound /ˈpɒtbaʊnd‖ˈpɑːt-/ usu. **rootbound** *AmE*– *adj* (of a plant growing in a pot) having roots that have grown to fill the pot, and therefore are unable to grow any further

po·teen , po·theen /pəˈtʃiːn, -ˈtiːn/ *n* [U] Irish WHISKEY made secretly and illegally to avoid paying government tax

po·ten·cy /ˈpəʊtənsi/ *n* [U] **1** the quality of being potent; power: *Alcohol increases the drug's potency.* **2** the ability of a man to have sex –see also IMPOTENCE

po·tent /ˈpəʊtənt/ *adj* **1** (of a medicine, drug, drink, etc.) having a strong and/or quick effect on the body or mind **2** *fml* (of arguments, reasoning, etc.) very effective; causing one to agree; CONVINCING **3** *lit or fml* having great power: *a potent new weapons system* –see also IMPOTENT – **~ly** *adv*

po·ten·tate /ˈpeʊtənteɪt/ *n* someone with very great or unlimited power, esp., in former times, a ruler with direct power over his or her people, not limited by a law-making body: *the despotic rule of Eastern potentates*

po·ten·tial[1] /pəˈtenʃəl/ *adj* [*no comp.*] that may happen or become so, although not actually existing at present: *a potential danger | weighing up the potential benefits and disadvantages of investing in new industries* – **~ly** *adv*: *She's potentially our best tennis player, but she needs to practise much harder.*

potential[2] *n* [S;U] **1** [(**for**)] (the degree of) possibility for developing or being favourably developed: *This new invention has (an) enormous sales potential.* (=could be sold in very large quantities) | *a young player with great potential | the potential for expansion* **2** the degree of electricity or electrical force, usu. measured in VOLTS

po·ten·ti·al·i·ty /pəˌtenʃiˈælɨti/ *n* [(**for**)] **1** [C *usu. pl.*] *fml* a hidden unused power of mind or character: *potentialities for either good or evil* **2** [U] POTENTIAL[2] (1)

pot·ful /ˈpɒtfʊl‖ˈpɑːt-/ *n* a POT[1] (2)

pot·head /ˈpɒthed‖ˈpɒːt-/ *n AmE sl derog* a person who smokes MARIJUANA

po·theen /pəˈtʃiːn, ˈ-tiːn/ *n* [U] POTEEN

pot·hold·er /ˈpɒthəʊldəʳ‖ˈpɑːt-/ *n AmE* a piece of padded (PAD[2]) material used to hold hot cooking pans

pot·hole /ˈpɒthəʊl‖ˈpɑːt-/ *n* **1** a large hole which goes deep underground in rocky country **2** a hole in the surface of a road which makes driving, etc. difficult or dangerous

pot·hol·ing /ˈpɒtˌhəʊlɪŋ‖ˈpɑːt-/ *n* [U] the sport of climbing down inside POTHOLES (1) **–-er** *n*

pot·hun·ter /ˈpɒtˌhʌntəʳ‖ˈpɑːt-/ *n BrE infml derog* a person who competes in races or competitions only in order to win prizes

po·tion /ˈpəʊʃən/ *n esp. lit* a liquid mixture intended as a medicine, poison, or magic charm: *a potion supposed to cure baldness*

pot·luck[1] /ˌpɒtˈlʌk◂‖ˌpɑːt-/ *n* **take potluck: a** to choose without enough information; take a chance: *I don't know anything about any of these films, so let's just go to the nearest cinema and take potluck.* **b** (esp. of an unexpected

guest) to have whatever meal has been prepared : *Come home with us and have supper, if you don't mind taking potluck.*

potluck[2] *adj AmE* with dishes of food brought by many different people: *a potluck supper | Will you bring a salad to the potluck lunch next Sunday?*

Pot Noo·dle /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n tdmk* a type of SNACK meal made by Golden Wonder and consisting of dried PASTA, meat and vegetables; it is mixed with hot water to make it ready to eat

Po·to·mac /pəˈtəʊmæk/ [*the*] a river in the E of the US which separates Maryland and Washington DC from Virginia and West Virginia

pot plant /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **potted plant** /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *AmE*– a usu. decorative plant grown in a pot indoors **2** *AmE infml* a MARIJUANA plant

pot·pour·ri /pəʊˈpʊəri‖-pʊˈri/ *n* **1** a mixture of dried pieces of sweet-smelling flowers and leaves, kept in a bowl to give a pleasant smell to a room **2** [**(of)**] a mixed collection, esp. of pieces of music or writing of a popular sort; MISCELLANY

pot roast /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a piece of meat, usu. BEEF, cooked in a pan on top of the cooker, usu. with potatoes and vegetables

Pots·dam A·gree·ment /ˌpɒtsdæm əˈgriːmənt ‖ ˌpɑːts-/ [*the*] an agreement by the countries that won the Second World War (the US, Britain, the USSR, and France) to divide control of Germany between them

pot·sherd /ˈpɒt-ʃɜːd‖ˈpɑːt-ʃɜːrd/ *n tech* (in ARCHAEOLOGY) a piece of a broken pot

pot·shot /ˈpɒt-ʃɒt‖ˈpɑːt-ʃɑːt/ also **pot–** *n* [**(at)**] *infml* a carelessly aimed shot: *I* **took a potshot** *at the rabbit.*

pot·ted /ˈpɒtɨd‖ˈpɑː-/ *adj* [A] **1** (of meat, fish, or chicken) made into a PASTE to be eaten esp. spread on bread **2** (of a plant) grown in a pot: *potted palms* **3** *esp. BrE, sometimes derog* (of a book) produced in a shorter simpler form: *a potted history of the world*

pot·ter[1] /ˈpɒtəʳ‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* a person who makes pots, dishes, etc., out of baked clay, esp. by hand –see also POTTERY

potter[2] *BrE* ‖ **putter** *AmE*– *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* **1** to go in an unhurried way: *I was just pottering along in my little car when two motorbikes roared past.* **2** to spend time moving about a place slowly doing unimportant activities that need little effort: *Granny just potters about the house. | pottering in the garden* –**potter** *n* [S]

Potter[1]**, Bea·trix** /ˈbɪətrɪks‖ˈbɪər-/ (1866–1943) an English writer who wrote animal stories for young children and also drew the pictures for her books. Her books include *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* and *The Tailor of Gloucester* and are still very popular with British children and their parents

Potter[2]**, Den·nis** /ˈdenɨs/ (1935–) an English writer of plays, best-known for his television SERIES *Pennies from Heaven* and *The Singing Detective*

Pot·ter·ies /ˈpɒtəriz‖ˈpɑː-/ [*the*] a part of Staffordshire in the midlands of England which is a centre for the CHINA and pottery industry

potter's field /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* (formerly) a place where poor people were buried

potter's wheel /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a round flat spinning plate on which wet clay is placed to be shaped into a pot

pot·ter·y /ˈpɒtəri‖ˈpɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** the work of a potter **2** (pots and other objects made out of) baked clay: *a collection of medieval pottery | a pottery dish | a pottery class*

potting com·post /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a mixture of earth, sand, decayed plant material, and plant foods which is put into pots in which plants are grown

pot·ting shed /ˈ·· ·/ *n esp. BrE* a small building for the use of a gardener, in which garden tools, seeds, etc. are kept

pot·ty[1] /ˈpɒti‖ˈpɑːti/ *adj BrE infml* **1** silly; slightly mad: *What a potty idea! | That noise is driving me potty.* **2** [F+**about**] having an extremely strong, or too strong interest in or admiration for: *He's potty about the girl next door/about sailing.* –**tiness** *n* [U]

potty[2] also **pot–** *n* **1** a CHAMBER POT for children, now usu. made of plastic –compare BEDPAN **2** *AmE* (used by or to children) the toilet: *Have you been to the potty?*

potty-trained /ˈ·· ·/ also **toilet-trained**– *adj* (of a child) trained to use a potty or TOILET –**potty-training** *n* [U]

pouch /paʊtʃ/ *n* **1** a small leather bag used for holding esp. tobacco or, in former times, explosive powder, money, etc. **2** a pocket of skin in the lower half of the body, in which MARSUPIAL animals carry their young –see picture at KANGAROO **3** a baglike fold of skin inside each cheek, in which certain animals carry and store food

pouf /puːf/ *n* **1** also **pouffe** /puːf/ *BrE*‖ **hassock** *AmE*– a soft drum-shaped object used as a seat or for resting the feet on –see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** *BrE derog sl for* a male HOMOSEXUAL. This word is used only by people who do not approve of homosexual men. –see HOMOSEXUAL

poul·ter·er /ˈpəʊltərəʳ/ *n old-fash* a person who sells poultry

poul·tice /ˈpəʊltɨs/ *n* a heated wet mass of a soft substance, spread on a thin cloth and laid against the skin to lessen pain, swelling, etc.: *a mustard poultice*

poul·try /ˈpəʊltri/ *n* [P;U] (meat from) farmyard birds such as hens, ducks, etc., kept for supplying eggs and meat: *Poultry is cheaper than meat* (=meat from cattle, pigs, etc.) *at the moment.*

pounce[1] /paʊns/ *v* [I **(on)**] to jump suddenly in order to take hold of something firmly, esp. so as to kill and eat it: *The cat pounced on the unsuspecting mouse.* | (fig.) *Policemen were hiding in the bank, ready to pounce on the thieves.*

pounce on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to accept eagerly: *He pounced on my offer.* **2** to notice at once and make a sharp remark about: *If you make a single mistake, Vernon will pounce on it/you and say you're a fool.*

pounce[2] *n* [*usu. sing.*] an attack made by pouncing

pound[1] /paʊnd/ *n* **1** [C] (*written abbrev.* **lb**) a unit of weight equal to 0·454 kilograms: *This weighs seven pounds.* (=7 lbs) | *Two pounds of apples, please.* | *Sugar is still sold by the pound here.* –see TABLE 2 **2** [C] **a** also **pound sterling** *fml or tech*– the standard unit of money in Britain, divided into 100 pence. The pound used to be in the form of paper money called a pound note, but in 1985 this was replaced by a coin (called a pound coin): *Five pounds can also be written £5.* | *The floods caused damage estimated at over a million pounds.* **b** the standard unit of money in various other countries, such as Egypt and the Sudan **3** [*the*] the value of British money in relation to the money of other countries: *The pound has fallen again (against the dollar).* **4 -pounder: a** something, esp. a fish, that weighs the stated number of pounds: *I caught a five-pounder.* **b** a large gun that fires a shot weighing the stated number of pounds: *a 32-pounder* **5 one's pound of flesh** the exact amount that one owes esp. when its payment will cause great pain or trouble to the person who owes it

pound[2] *v* **1** [T (UP)] to crush into a soft mass or powder by hitting repeatedly with a heavy object: *Pound the tomatoes into a paste.* **2** [I;T] to beat or hit repeatedly, heavily, and noisily: *My heart pounded (with excitement).| He pounded the table angrily.* | (fig.) *Our guns pounded away at the enemy positions.* (=kept firing heavily at them) **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to move with heavy quick steps that make a dull sound: *The runaway cattle pounded down the hill.*

pound[3] *n* a place where lost dogs and cats, or cars that have been illegally parked, are kept by the police until claimed by the owner –see also IMPOUND

Pound, Ez·ra /ˈezrə/ (1885–1972) an American poet who lived mostly in Europe and whose poems include the *Cantos*. He supported FASCISM during the Second World War and after the war he was accused (ACCUSE) of TREASON and sent to an American mental hospital.

pound·age /ˈpaʊndɪdʒ/ *n* [U **(on)**] *tech* an amount charged for every pound in weight, or for every British £1 in value

pound cake /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a heavy cake made from almost equal parts of flour, sugar, and butter

pound·ing /ˈpaʊndɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act or sound of someone or something that POUNDS[2]: *the pounding of my heart* **2** [C] *infml* a severe defeat: *Our football team took a real pounding from Brazil.*

pour /pɔːʳ/ *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to cause (something) to flow (out of or into a container): *Pour some wine into my glass.* | *Pour away the dirty water.* | *The chimney was pouring out black smoke.* | (fig.) *The government has been pouring money into the steel industry.* (=supporting it with large amounts of money) [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Can I pour*

you (out) another cup of tea? **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to flow steadily and rapidly: *Blood poured from the wound.* | *Smoke was pouring from the window.* | (fig.) *At five o'clock workers poured out of the factories.* **3** [I] *infml* to fill cups of tea, coffee, etc., and serve them to others: *Shall I pour or will you?* **4** [I+*adv*] (of a container) to be suitable for pouring: *This teapot doesn't pour very well.* **5** [I (DOWN)] (of rain) to fall hard and steadily: *The rain is really pouring down.* | *She spoilt her new shoes in* **the pouring rain**. [*it*+I] *It's pouring down/pouring with rain.* —see RAIN (USAGE) **6 pour cold water over/on** *infml* to speak discouragingly about; dismiss as not being sensible: *Don't pour cold water on the scheme: it has some good points.* **7 pour oil on troubled waters** to try to stop trouble, a quarrel, etc. by making the people who are causing it calmer **8 pour scorn on** to speak with unkind disrespect about

pour sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**to**)] to tell (a story, news, one's troubles, etc.) in an uncontrolled way so that the words rush out, esp. after keeping them unexpressed for a long time: *She poured out her worries to the doctor.*

Pous·sin /ˈpuːsæn‖puːˈsɑːn/, **Nic·o·las** /ˈnɪkələs/ (1594–1665) a French painter known esp. for his LANDSCAPE paintings

pout[1] /paʊt/ *v* [I;T] to push (the lips or the lower lip) forward, esp. to show displeasure or to attract sexual interest: *The spoilt child sat there pouting.* | *The film star pouted provocatively.*

pout[2] *n* an act of pouting: *a sullen/sensual pout*

pov·er·ty /ˈpɒvəti‖ˈpɑːvərti/ *n* **1** [U] the state of being poor: *They live in abject poverty/below* **the poverty line.** (=their income is less than is needed to buy enough food, pay for a proper place to live, etc.) **2** [S;U (**of**)] *fml derog* (a) lack: *His later stories show (a) surprising poverty of imagination.* —compare POORNESS

poverty line /ˈ··· ˌ·/ [*the*] a level of income under which a person or family is considered to be very poor and able to receive government help. In the US the poverty line in the late 1980s was set at about $12,000 a year for a family of four, and the amount is changed each year because of INFLATION.

poverty-strick·en /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *adj* extremely poor

poverty trap /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a situation in which the amount of money earned by a poor person or family increases slightly so that they are no longer allowed to receive special government payments and as a result they have even less money than before

pow /paʊ/ *interj* a word used in children's COMICS (=magazines of picture stories) to show that somebody has hit another person hard

POW /ˌpiː əʊ ˈdʌbəljuː/ *n* a PRISONER OF WAR: *a POW camp*

pow·der[1] /ˈpaʊdəʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) dry substance in the form of extremely small grains: *On examination, the white powder turned out to be heroin.* | *milk powder* **2** [U] a pleasant-smelling often flesh-coloured substance in this form, for use on the skin: *baby powder* | *face powder* — see also TALCUM POWDER **3** [C] *old use* a medicine in the form of powder: *a stomach powder* **4** [U] GUNPOWDER **5 take a powder** *AmE sl* to be hurt and usu. to fall down in a fight: *He took a powder in the third round.*

powder[2] *v* **1** [T] to put powder on: *She powdered the baby after its bath.* **2 powder one's nose** *euph* (of a woman) to go to the TOILET

pow·dered /ˈpaʊdəd‖-ərd/ *adj* **1** produced or dried in the form of powder: *powdered egg* **2** covered with powder: *powdered hair*

powdered milk /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **dried milk**— *n* [U] milk which has been dried for easy keeping —see also BABY MILK

powder keg /ˈ·· ·/ *n* something dangerous that might explode: (fig.) *That country is a political powder keg; revolution could break out at any time.*

powder puff /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small thick piece or ball of soft material for spreading POWDER on the face or body

powder room /ˈ·· ·/ *n euph* a women's public TOILET in a theatre, hotel, restaurant, big shop, etc.

pow·der·y /ˈpaʊdəri/ *adj* **1** like or easily broken into powder: *powdery snow* **2** covered with powder

Pow·ell /ˈpəʊəl/, **An·tho·ny** /ˈæntəni/ (1905–) a 20th century English writer who wrote *A Dance to the Music of Time*

Powell /ˈpaʊəl/, **E·noch** /ˈiːnɒk‖-nɑːk/ (1912–) an English politician who is famous for opposing IMMIGRATION, esp. in the 1960s, and for being against Britain joining the Common Market. In 1968 he made a famous speech, now referred to as the "Rivers of Blood" speech, in which he said that if Britain allowed too many black people to come and live in this country, there would be fighting and "rivers of blood" in the streets. Many people think that he is a RACIST because of this.

pow·er[1] /ˈpaʊəʳ/ *n* **1** [S;U (**over**)] control over others; influence: *The power of governments has increased greatly over the past century.* | *The chairman was forced to resign following a boardroom power struggle.* | *a religious cult which seems to exercise a strange power over the people who join it* | *Now I've got him* **in my power**, *I can make him do anything I want.* **2** [U] governmental control: *Which party is* **in power** (=is the government) *now?* | *The Progressive Party was* **returned to power,** *with an increased majority in the election.* | *The rebels have seized power.* **3** [C;U] (a) right to act, given by law, rule, or official position: [+*to-v*] *Only certain directors in the company have the power to sign company cheques.* | *The police and the army have been given special powers to deal with the situation.* **4** [(*the*) U (**of**)] also **powers** *pl.*— what one can do; (natural) ability: *Humans are the only animals with the power of speech.* [+*to-v*] *She claims to have the power to see into the future.* | *He did everything* **in his power** (=did all he could) *to comfort her.* | *I'm afraid it's not (with)in my power to help you.* | *She's nearly 80 and very ill, and her* **powers are failing.** (=she no longer has all her natural abilities) | *When he wrote that book, he was* **at the height of his powers** *as a writer.* **5** [U] ability to have physical effect; force; strength: *So enormous was the hurricane's power that it carried away whole buildings.* | (fig.) *We plan to increase our air power.* (=get more military aircraft) | (fig.) *Japan's industrial power* **6** [U] force that can be used for doing work, driving a machine, or producing electricity: *nuclear power* | *The engine is being specially adapted to increase its power.* | *"This drill isn't working." "You haven't turned on the power."* (=electricity) —see also HORSEPOWER, MANPOWER **7** [U] a measure of the degree to which a microscope, TELESCOPE, etc. is able to make things seen through it look larger **8** [C] (*sometimes cap.*) a person, group, nation, spirit, etc., that has influence or control: *People say that Britain is no longer a world power.* | *He was only an ordinary MP when I first knew him, but these days he's quite a* **power in the land**. (=someone with a lot of power and influence) | **the powers of darkness** (=the forces of the devil) —see also SUPERPOWER **9** [C] (in MATHEMATICS) the number of times that an amount is to be multiplied by itself: *The amount 2 to the power of 3 is written* 2^3, *and means* $2\times2\times2$. **10** [S+**of**] *infml* a large amount; lot: *Your visit while I was ill* **did me a power of good**. **11 more power to someone's elbow!** *infml, esp. BrE* good luck to someone! may someone's efforts succeed!: *She's trying to get the boss to arrange a firm's party? Well, more power to her elbow!* **12 power behind the throne** someone who, though having no official position, has great private influence over a ruler or leader **13 power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely** *quote* a phrase used by the English HISTORIAN Lord Acton **14 the power and the glory** a phrase from the LORD'S PRAYER **15 the powers that 'be** *infml, often humor* the unknown people in important official positions who make decisions that have an effect on one's life **16 power trip** *AmE derog* an eagerness to use the power one has been given: *Ever since he got that promotion he's been on a real power trip.* **17 -powered** /paʊəd‖-ərd/ using, producing, or having the stated type or amount of POWER (6,7): *a low-powered engine* | *a high-powered telescope* — see also BALANCE OF POWER, BLACK POWER, HIGH-POWERED, PURCHASING POWER, STAYING POWER

power[2] *v* **1** [T *usu. pass.*] to supply power to (esp. a vehicle): *The aircraft is powered by three jet engines.* **2** [I + *adv/prep*] *infml* to move powerfully and fast: *The racing car powered down the home straight.*

power[3] *adj* [A] driven by a motor: *a power saw/mower*

power base /ˈ·· ·/ *n* an area, group, etc. that provides someone with a means of having influence: *For the first time we have a president whose political power base is in the west of the country.*

pow·er·boat /ˈpaʊəbəʊt‖ˈpaʊər-/ *n* a powerful MOTORBOAT, esp. one for racing

power bro·ker /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* someone who controls the degree to which others have political influence, esp. in affairs between nations

power cut /ˈ·· ·/ also **power failure**– *n* a failure of the electricity supply: *We got the gas stove because we were always getting power cuts.*

power dive /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a steep downward movement of an aircraft with the engines working

power dres·sing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a way of dressing used esp. in the 1980s by women to show that they are as able as men to have positions of power in society

power fail·ure /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] power cut

pow·er·ful /ˈpaʊəfəl‖ˈpaʊər-/ *adj* **1** able to produce great physical force: *powerful muscles | a powerful engine | a powerful swimmer* (=who can swim fast and/or a long way) **2** great in degree or effect: *a powerful electric current. | a powerful telescope | powerful drugs | Onions have a powerful smell. | a powerful imagination* **3** having much control and influence: *Powerful nations sometimes try to control weaker ones. | a powerful position in the government* –**~ly** *adv*: *He's very powerfully built.* (=has a big strong body)

Pow·er·Gen /ˈpaʊədʒen‖-ər-/ one of the two main companies, which produce electricity in Britain –see also NATIONAL POWER

pow·er·house /ˈpaʊəhaʊs‖-ər-/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ *infml, usu. apprec* **1** a very strong person **2** [**(of)**] a person or place that acts, thinks, or produces things with great forcefulness: *an intellectual powerhouse | the idea of a university as a powerhouse of ideas*

pow·er·less /ˈpaʊələs‖ˈpaʊər-/ *adj* lacking power, strength, or ability: [F+*to-v*] *I was powerless to* (=could not) *prevent the accident.* –**~ly** *adv* –**~ness** *n* [U]

power line /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a large wire carrying electricity over land or underground from where the electricity is produced to where it is used

power of at·tor·ney /ˌ·· · ·ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] *law* (a signed official paper giving) the right to act for someone else in business or law

power plant /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** an engine and other parts which supply power to a factory, an aircraft, a car, etc. **2** *esp. AmE* a POWER STATION

power point /ˈ·· ·/ also **point, socket** *BrE* ‖ **electric socket** *AmE*– *n esp. BrE* a piece of plastic or other material with holes in it, in Britain usu. three square holes, in the US usu. two, which is fixed into a wall and to which electrical equipment can be connected for the electricity supply

power pol·i·tics /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [U] *often derog* (in international politics) the use or threat of armed force instead of peaceful argument

power shar·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ the sharing of political power by different groups in a society, esp. a political arrangement in Northern Ireland in 1973 in which Catholics and Protestants shared in government. The arrangement did not end the troubles there, and ended in 1976.

power show·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a SHOWER[1] (3b) which has a very forceful flow of water

power sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ ‖ also **power plant** *esp. AmE*– *n* a large building in which electricity is made

power steer·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] (in a vehicle) a system for steering (STEER[2]) which uses power from the vehicle's engine and therefore needs less effort from the driver

power work·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a worker in the electricity-producing industry

pow·wow /ˈpaʊˌwaʊ/ *n* **1** a meeting or council of Native Americans **2** *humor* a meeting or discussion

Pow·ys /ˈpaʊɨs/ a COUNTY in central Wales

pox /pɒks‖pɑːks/ *n* **1** [*the*+S] *infml* the disease SYPHILIS **2** [U] *old use* the disease SMALLPOX **3 a pox on** *old use* (used for expressing complete disrespect for someone or something worthless): *A pox on our enemies!* –see also CHICKEN POX, COWPOX

pp *abbrev. for:* **1** pages: *see pp 15–37* –see also P[2] **2** (written before the name of another person, when one is signing a letter for them)

PPS /ˌpiː piː ˈes/ *n* **1** (in Britain) Parliamentary Private Secretary; a member of parliament who is appointed to help a minister **2** also **p.p.s.**– *abbrev. for:* post postscriptum; a note added after a P.S. in a letter or message

PR[1] /ˌpiː ˈɑːr/ *n* [U] **1** PUBLIC RELATIONS: *an expert in PR* **2** PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

PR[2] *written abbrev. for:* PUERTO RICO

prac·ti·ca·ble /ˈpræktɪkəbəl/ *adj* that can be successfully done or used, though not yet tried: *Is it practicable to try to develop agriculture in desert regions?* –opposite **impracticable** –**-bly** *adv* –**-bility** /ˌpræktɪkəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

▷ USAGE People are beginning to use **practical** with the same meaning as **practicable**; a **practical/practicable** plan or suggestion is one that will work. **Practicable** is not used of people.◁

prac·ti·cal[1] /ˈpræktɪkəl/ *adj* **1** concerned with action, practice, or actual conditions and results, rather than with ideas: *They've agreed to store the furniture; but we still have the practical problem of how to transport it over there. | She lacks practical experience.* **2** *apprec* effective or convenient in actual use; suited to actual conditions: *a practical uniform which is comfortable and doesn't show the dirt* **3** *usu. apprec* sensible; clever at doing things and dealing with difficulties: *Be practical – we can't afford both a car and a holiday. | She's a very practical person.* **4** practicable **5 for all practical purposes** actually; in reality: *He does so little work in the office that for all practical purposes it would make no difference if he didn't come.* –opposite **impractical** (for 2,3); see also PRACTICALLY; see PRACTICABLE (USAGE) –**~ity** /ˌpræktɪˈkælɨti/ *n* [C;U]: *I'm not sure about the practicality of that suggestion. | Please stick to practicalities.*

practical[2] *n infml* a PRACTICAL lesson, test, or examination, esp. in science: *a chemistry practical*

practical joke /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* a trick played on someone to amuse others: *She glued the teacher's book to the desk as a practical joke.* –compare PRANK, TRICK[1] (3)

prac·ti·cally /ˈpræktɪkli/ *adv* **1** in a practical way **2** very nearly; almost: *The holidays are practically over; there's only one day left.*

▷ USAGE **Practically** can be used in the same way as **almost,** but is less common. It cannot be used in exactly the sameway as **nearly.** –see also ALMOST (USAGE)◁

prac·tice /ˈpræktɨs/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) regular or repeated performance or exercise in order to learn to do something well: *You need to get some more practice at reversing round corners before you take your driving test. | He's gone to football practice. | We have three choir practices a week. | The student teachers are now doing their teaching practice. | I haven't played tennis for years, so I'm really out of practice.* (=I lack the practice needed to play well) | *He took a couple of practice swings with his club before playing the shot.* **2** [U] the actual doing of something (rather than the idea of it): *It sounded like a good idea, but* **in practice** *it didn't work. | We've made our plans, and now we must* **put** *them* **into practice.** (=actually carry them out) –compare THEORY (2) **3** [C] the business of a doctor or lawyer: *He has a large practice* (=many people to look after) *in London.* –see also GROUP PRACTICE, PRIVATE PRACTICE **4** [C;U] a repeated, habitual, or standard act or course of action: *unfair business practices | religious practices | I'll lend you the money this time, but I don't intend to make a practice of it.* (=lend you money regularly) | *It is the practice in English law to consider someone innocent until they have been proved guilty.* (=that is what is done in English law) | *It is now quite common practice for married women not to take their husband's second name.* –see also SHARP PRACTICE; see HABIT (USAGE) **5 practice makes perfect** *saying* if you do something repeatedly, you will learn to do it perfectly

prac·tise *BrE* ‖ **-tice** *AmE* /ˈpræktɨs/ *v* **1** [I;T] to do (an action) or perform on (esp. a musical instrument) regularly or repeatedly in order to gain skill: *You'll never learn to ride a bike if you don't practise. | She's been practising the same tune on the piano for nearly an hour. | You mustn't practise the drums while the baby is sleeping.* [+*v-ing*] *You need to practise parking the car in a small space.* **2** [I **(as)**;T] to do (the work of a doctor, lawyer, etc.): *She's passed her law examinations and is now practising (as a lawyer). | a practising doctor* **3** [T] to act in accordance with (the ideas of one's religion): *a practising Jew* **4** [T] *fml* to make continuous use of (a course of action): *Our income has decreased and now we must practise economy.* (=must avoid spending money) **5** [T] *fml* to do; perform:

to practise magic **6 practise what one preaches** to do oneself what one advises others to do

prac·tised *BrE* ‖ **-tice** *AmE* /ˈprækt|ɘst/ *adj* **1** [(**in**)] (of a person) skilled through practice: *a practised liar* | *thoroughly practised in the skills of politics* | *practised at avoiding difficult questions* **2** [A] *apprec* gained by practice: *The dancer moved with practised grace.* **3** *usu. derog* used so often that it is no longer natural: *The hotel manager welcomed the guests with a practised smile.*

prac·ti·tion·er /prækˈtɪʃənəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who works in a profession, esp. a doctor or lawyer: *medical practitioners* **2** *sometimes derog* a person who performs a skill or art: *practitioners of magic* —see also GENERAL PRACTITIONER

Pra·do /ˈprɑːdəʊ/ [*the*] the national Spanish MUSEUM of painting and SCULPTURE which is in Madrid and has many very important works of art by painters such as El Greco, Goya, and Rubens

prae·sid·i·um /prɪˈsɪdiəm, -ˈzɪ-/ *n* **-iums** *or* **-ia** /-diə/ a PRESIDIUM

prae·tor·i·an guard /prɪˌtɔːriən ˈgɑːd‖-ˈgɑːrd/ *n* [*the*] **1** the soldiers who defended the life of the Roman EMPEROR **2** a group of people who are supposed to defend a person in power against people who want to take power from them, but who are often more to do them interested in their own aims

prag·mat·ic /prægˈmætɪk/ *adj usu. apprec* dealing with matters in the way that seems best under the actual conditions, rather than following a general principle; concerned with practical results —**~ally** /kli/ *adv*

prag·mat·ics /prægˈmætɪks/ *n* [U] *tech* (in the study of language) the study of the way words and phrases are used in conversation to express meanings, feelings, and ideas which are sometimes different from the actual meaning of the words used

prag·ma·tis·m /ˈprægmətɪzəm/ *n* [U] *usu. apprec* pragmatic ways of considering and dealing with things —**-tist** *n*

Prague /prɑːg/ the capital city of Czechoslovakia, a port and industrial centre with many beautiful buildings

Prague spring /ˌ· ˈ·/ a short time in 1968 when the Communist government of Czechoslovakia, under Alexander Dubcek, allowed people to have more freedom than before. The Soviet Union did not agree with these changes and invaded (INVADE) Czechoslovakia and forced the government to return to the way things were before.

prai·rie /ˈpreəri/ also **prairies** *pl.*— *n* a wide treeless grassy plain, esp. in N America

prairie dog /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a small animal with a short tail which is found in the prairies in N America. Prairie dogs live in large groups under the ground, and are often seen standing on their back legs looking for danger.

prairie oy·ster /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n infml* **1** a type of drink made with raw egg which is supposed to be a cure for a HANGOVER (1) **2** *AmE* also **Rocky Mountain oyster**— the TESTICLES of a CALF (=male young of a cow), eaten as food

prairie schoo·ner /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n AmE infml* a small COVERED WAGON

praise[1] /preɪz/ *v* [T (**for**)] **1** to speak of with admiration and approval: *The doctor praised her for her courage.* **2** *fml or lit* to offer thanks and honour to (God), esp. by singing religious songs in a church service **3 praise someone/something to the skies** to express very strong praise for someone or something

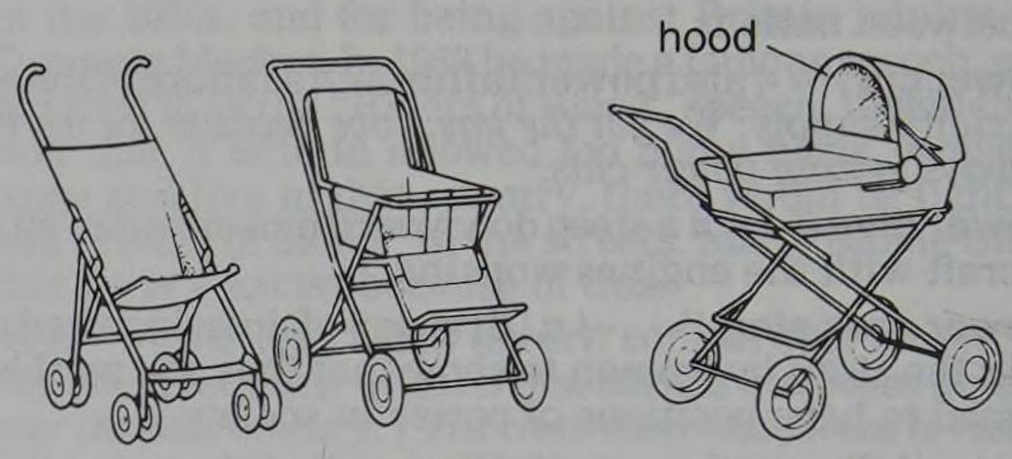
praise[2] *n* [U] **1** expression of admiration: *The new film received high praise from everyone.* | *All sides of the community joined together in praise of the police's prompt action.* **2** *fml or lit* worship: *Let us give praise to God.* **3 praise be** *old-fash* thank God: *At last I've found you, praise be!* —see also **damn with faint praise** (DAMN[4])

prais·es /ˈpreɪzɘz/ *n* [P (**of**)] words that praise someone or something: *Everyone's* **singing the praises** *of* (=praising) *his new film, but I didn't think much of it.*

praise·wor·thy /ˈpreɪzwɜːðiǁ-ɜːr-/ *adj apprec* deserving praise, esp. even though not successful; COMMENDABLE: *a praiseworthy attempt to simplify the complex laws in this area* —**-thily** *adv* —**-thiness** *n* [U]

pra·line /ˈprɑːliːn/ *n* a sweet made of nuts cooked in boiling sugar, used esp. as a filling for chocolates

pram /præm/ also **perambulator** *old-fash or fml, esp. BrE* ‖ **baby buggy, baby carriage** *AmE*— *n* a four-wheeled carriage, pushed by hand, in which a baby can sleep or be taken about —compare PUSHCHAIR



pushchairs *BrE*/ strollers *AmE*

pram *BrE*/ baby buggy *AmE*

prance /prɑːnsǁpræns/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] **1** (of an animal, esp. a horse) to jump high or move quickly by raising the front legs and springing forwards on the back legs **2** *sometimes derog* to move quickly, happily, or proudly with a springing or dancing step: *The children were prancing about with delight.* | *That cheeky new secretary just pranced up to me and asked if I worked here!*

prank /præŋk/ *n* a playful but foolish trick, not intended to harm: *Children like to play pranks on people.* | *a schoolboy prank* —compare PRACTICAL JOKE

prank·ster /ˈpræŋkstəʳ/ *n infml* a person who plays pranks

prat /præt/ *n BrE derog sl* a worthless stupid person

prate /preɪt/ *v* [I (ON, **about**)] *old-fash derog* to talk foolishly

prat·fall /ˈprætfɔːl/ *n AmE infml* a fall on one's BUTTOCKS, often on purpose to cause laughter: *The comedian slipped on a banana skin and did a pratfall.*

prat·tle[1] /ˈprætl/ *v* [I (ON, **about**)] *infml, often derog* to talk continually in a childish or foolish way about matters of no importance: *The children prattled on about their presents.* —**-tler** *n*

prattle[2] *n* [U] *infml, often derog* childish, unimportant, or meaningless talk

Prav·da /ˈprɑːvdə/ a Russian newspaper, formerly the official newspaper of the Communist party of the USSR

prawn /prɔːn/ *BrE* ‖ **shrimp** *AmE*— *n* a small ten-legged sea animal used for food, like a SHRIMP, but larger

prawn cock·tail /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a British dish served before the main course of a meal and consisting of prawns in MAYONNAISE on a bed of LETTUCE leaves

pray[1] /preɪ/ *v* **1** [I (**for, to**);T] to speak, often silently, to God or a god, privately or with others, to show love, give thanks, or ask for (something): *They went to the mosque to pray.* | *I will pray to God for your safety.* | *We pray God's forgiveness.* [+*to-v*] *Many times when he was in terrible pain he had prayed to be allowed to die.* [+(*that*)] *They prayed that their enemies might be defeated.* | (fig.) *The school picnic is on Saturday, so we're praying* (=hoping very strongly) *for a fine day.* | (fig.) *I pray to God* (=hope very strongly) *nothing like that ever happens again.* **2** [T] *lit or old use* to ask or beg seriously and with strong feeling: *Take great care, I pray you!*

pray[2] *adv fml or lit* (used for giving force to a request) please: *Pray be seated!*

prayer /preəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] (a fixed form of words used in making) a solemn request to God or a god: *a special prayer for Easter Sunday* | *He says his prayers every night before he goes to bed.* | *Her prayer was answered and her husband came home safely.* **2** [U] the act or regular habit of praying to God or a god: *The congregation knelt in prayer.* **3** [U] (*often cap.*) a fixed form of church service including prayers: *Evening Prayer* —see also PRAYERS

Prayer Book /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

prayer meet·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* (in Protestant churches) a public meeting at which people offer personal prayers to God

prayer rug /ˈ· ·/ also **prayer mat**— *n* a small mat knelt on by Muslims when they are praying

prayers /preəzǁ-ərz/ *n* [P] a daily religious service among a group of people, mainly consisting of praying: *school prayers* | *family prayers*

prayer wheel /ˈ· ·/ *n* a drum-shaped piece of wood or metal

that turns round on a pole, and on which prayers are written, used by Buddhists in Tibet

pray·ing man·tis /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **mantis**– *n* a large insect that eats other insects and holds out its front legs pressed together –see picture at INSECT

pre- see WORD FORMATION

preach /priːtʃ/ *v* **1** [I (**to**);T] to speak or say (a religious speech) in public: *Christ preached to large crowds.* | *The priest preached a sermon on the need for charity.* [+*that*] *Christ preached that we should love each other.* **2** [T] *often derog* to advise or urge others to accept (something one believes in): *These misguided people go around preaching revolution.* **3** [I (**at, to, about**)] *derog* to offer unwanted advice on matters of right and wrong: *My sister has been preaching at me again about my untidy habits.* **4 preach to the converted** to explain one's ideas or beliefs to people who already share them –~**er** *n*

Preak·ness /ˈpriːknəs/ [*the*] a race for three-year-old horses held in Maryland –see also TRIPLE CROWN

pre·am·ble /priːˈæmbəl‖ˈpriːæmbəl/ *n tech or derog* **1** a statement at the beginning of a speech or piece of writing, giving its reason and purpose: *a preamble to the treaty* **2** *usu. cap, AmE* the statements at the beginning of the American CONSTITUTION

pre·ar·range /ˌpriːəˈreɪndʒ/ *v* [T] to arrange in advance: *At a prearranged signal, everyone stood up.* –~**ment** *n* [U]

preb·end /ˈprebənd/ *n tech* a small regular payment made to a priest of quite high rank for services connected with a CATHEDRAL or special church

preb·en·da·ry /ˈprebəndəri‖-deri/ *n* a priest who receives a prebend

pre·car·i·ous /prɪˈkeəriəs/ *adj* unsafe; not firm or steady; full of danger: *The climber had only a precarious hold on the slippery rock.* | *Our financial situation is still precarious.* –~**ly** *adv* : *She had a cup of tea balanced precariously on her knee.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

pre·cast /ˌpriːˈkɑːst◂‖-ˈkæst◂/ *adj* (of CONCRETE[2]) formed into blocks ready for use in building

pre·cau·tion /prɪˈkɔːʃən/ *n* [(**against**)] an action done to avoid possible danger, discomfort, etc.: *Equipment is always carefully sterilized as a precaution against infection.* | *It would be a wise precaution to lock all the doors.* –~**ary** *adj* : *a precautionary X-ray*

pre·cede /prɪˈsiːd/ *v* [T] **1** *fml* to come, go, or happen (just) before: *The flash of lightning preceded the sound of thunder by two seconds.* | *He came in, preceded by his wife.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **with**] to introduce (an activity) in the stated way; PREFACE: *He preceded his speech with a few words of welcome to the special guests.* –compare PROCEED

pre·ce·dence /ˈpresədəns/ *n* [U (**over**)] the right to be put or dealt with before others, esp. because of greater importance: *The hospital building programme will have to have/take precedence over the road building programme.* | *In the dispute over custody of the child, the court decided to give precedence to the mother's claims.* | *Let's deal with the questions in order of precedence.* (=the important ones first) –compare PRIORITY

pre·ce·dent /ˈpresədənt/ *n* **1** [U] use of former customs or decisions as a guide to present actions: *The Queen has* **broken with precedent** *by sending her children to ordinary schools.* **2** [C] a former action or case that may be used as an example or rule for present or future action: *This intervention in another nation's affairs has* **set a precedent** *which we hope other countries will not follow.* | *This course of action is quite without precedent.* (=has never happened before) –see also UNPRECEDENTED

pre·ced·ing /prɪˈsiːdɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *fml* coming just before in time or place: *the preceding day*

pre·cen·tor /prɪˈsentəʳ/ *n* (in some English CATHEDRALS) an official who deals with the musical arrangements for the religious services, and sometimes directs the trained singers

pre·cept /ˈpriːsept/ *n* a guiding rule on which behaviour, a way of thought or action, etc., is based: *Just follow these few basic precepts and you won't go far wrong in life.*

pre·cep·to·ri·al /prɪˌsepˈtɔːriəl, ˌpriːsep-/ *n AmE* a lesson at a university or college which is a small discussion group and for which students usu. do independent reading or study

pre·ces·sion /prɪˈseʃən/ *n* [C;U] **1** also **precession of the eq·ui·nox·es** /·ˌ·· · · ˈ····/– a slow westward change in the slope at which the earth turns round daily, which causes the times of the year at which day and night are both exactly 12 hours long to be slightly earlier each year **2** *tech* a sideways or circular movement of the slope of a spinning object –~**al** *adj*

pre·cinct /ˈpriːsɪŋkt/ *n* **1** *BrE* a part of a town planned for or limited to the stated use: *a new shopping precinct* (=an area containing only shops) **2** *AmE* a division of a town or city for election or police purposes

pre·cincts /ˈpriːsɪŋkts/ *n* [P (**of**)] **1** the space, often enclosed by walls, that surrounds an important building or group of buildings: *It's quiet within the precincts of the old college.* **2** *rare* the area around a particular place; neighbourhood

pre·ci·os·i·ty /ˌpreʃiˈɒsɨti‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml derog* unnatural perfection of detail, esp. in speech or pronunciation

pre·cious[1] /ˈpreʃəs/ *adj* **1** of great value, esp. because very expensive or much loved: *some of our country's most precious military secrets* | *He poured a few drops of the precious liquid into the glass.* | *That old toy is my most precious* (=dearly loved) *possession.* | *My time is precious; I can only give you a few minutes.* **2** *derog* (of manners, use of words, etc.) too concerned with perfection or unimportant details; unnaturally delicate **3** [A] *infml* (used for giving force to an expression of annoyance) worthless: *"Stop using that pen – it's mine!" "Take your precious pen, then!"* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

precious[2] *adv infml* very: *You'll get precious little sympathy from her.* | *There were precious few left.*

precious[3] *n infml becoming rare* (used when speaking to someone you love): *Come here, (my) precious!*

precious met·al /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] a rare and valuable metal: *Gold and silver are precious metals.* –compare BASE METAL

precious stone /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a rare and valuable jewel: *Diamonds and emeralds are precious stones.* –compare SEMI-PRECIOUS

pre·ci·pice /ˈpresɨpɨs/ *n* a dangerously steep side of a high rock, mountain, or cliff: (fig.) *In 1939 everyone felt Europe was* **on the edge of the precipice**. (=in very great danger)

pre·cip·i·tate[1] /prɨˈsɪpɨteɪt/ *v* **1** [T] *fml* to make (an unwanted event) happen sooner; HASTEN: *Fears about the solvency of the banks precipitated the great economic crash.* **2** [T+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **into**] *fml* **a** to throw forwards or downwards with great force: *The cart overturned and precipitated us into the ditch.* **b** to force suddenly into the stated condition or situation: *The border incident precipitated the two countries into war.* –compare PLUNGE[1] (1) **3** [I;T (OUT)] *tech* (in chemistry) to separate or cause (solid matter) to separate from a liquid by chemical action

pre·cip·i·tate[2] /prɨˈsɪpɨtɨt/ *n* [C;U] *tech* (in chemistry) solid matter that has been separated from a liquid by chemical action –compare PRECIPITATION (4)

precipitate[3] also **precipitous**– *adj fml* acting or done with too much hurry or without care or thought; IMPULSIVE: *They acted with precipitate haste.* | *She made a rather precipitate departure.* –~**ly** *adv*

pre·cip·i·ta·tion /prɨˌsɪpɨˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] *fml or tech* the act of precipitating or state of being precipitated **2** [U] *tech* (the amount of) rain, snow, etc. which has fallen onto the ground: *There will be precipitation on northern hills tonight.* **3** [U] *fml derog* unwisely hurried action **4** [C;U] *tech* (in chemistry) matter that has precipitated (PRECIPITATE[1] (3)) naturally –compare PRECIPITATE[2]

pre·cip·i·tous /prɨˈsɪpɨtəs/ *adj* **1** dangerously high or steep: *A precipitous path led down the cliff.* **2** PRECIPITATE[3] –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

pré·cis[1] /ˈpreɪsiː‖preɪˈsiː/ *n* **précis** /ˈpreɪsiːz‖preɪˈsiːz/ [(**of**)] a shortened form of a piece of writing or of what someone has said, giving only the main points

précis[2] *v* **précised** /ˈpreɪsiːd‖preɪˈsiːd/, *present participle* **précising** /ˈpreɪsiːɪŋ‖preɪˈsiːɪŋ/ [T] to make a précis of

pre·cise /prɪˈsaɪs/ *adj* **1** exact in form, detail, measurements, time, etc.: *very precise calculations* | *Our train leaves at about half past nine – 09.33 to be precise.* **2** [A] particular; exact; VERY: *At the precise moment that I put my foot on the step, the bus started.* **3** *sometimes derog*

careful and correct about small details: *A lawyer needs a precise mind.* | *a very precise old lady* —opposite **imprecise**

pre·cise·ly /prɪˈsaɪsli/ *adv* **1** exactly: *The train leaves at ten o'clock precisely.* **2** yes, that is correct; you are right: *"So you think we ought to wait until autumn?" "Precisely."*

pre·ci·sion[1] /prɪˈsɪʒən/ also **pre·cise·ness** /prɪˈsaɪsn̩s/— *n* [U] exactness: *Scientific instruments have to be made with great precision.* —opposite **imprecision**

precision[2] *adj* [A] **1** made or done with great exactness: *a precision landing* | *precision bombing* **2** used for producing very exact results: *Precision instruments are used to help pilots in guiding their aircraft.*

pre·clude /prɪˈkluːd/ *v* [T (**from**)] *fml* to prevent; make impossible: *The temporary cease-fire agreement does not preclude possible retaliatory attacks later.* | *I wouldn't want to preclude the possibility of a small payment being made.* (=I wouldn't want to say that that could not happen.) —compare PREEMPT —**-clusion** /ˈkluːʒən/ *n* [U]

pre·co·cious /prɪˈkəʊʃəs/ *adj* showing unusually early development of mind or body: *a precocious child who could already talk well at the age of one* | *Her precocious mathematical ability astounded her parents.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** also **-city** *fml* /prɪˈkɒsə̩ti‖-ˈkɑː-/— *n* [U]

pre·cog·ni·tion /ˌpriːkɒgˈnɪʃən‖-kɑːg-/ *n* [U (**of**)] *tech* knowledge of something that will happen in the future, esp. as received in the form of a direct message to the mind which cannot be explained

pre·con·ceived /ˌpriːkənˈsiːvd◂/ *adj* (of an idea, opinion, etc.) formed in advance, without (enough) knowledge or experience: *To appreciate his work you have to put aside any preconceived notions about how paintings should look.*

pre·con·cep·tion /ˌpriːkənˈsepʃən/ *n* [(**about**)] an opinion formed in advance, without actual knowledge: *Most of my preconceptions about Jane were proved wrong when I eventually met her.*

pre·con·di·tion /ˌpriːkənˈdɪʃən/ *n* [(**of**)] something that must be agreed to in advance if something else is to happen: *He made it a precondition of the talks that they should be held in a neutral country.*

pre·cook /ˌpriːˈkʊk/ *v* [T] to cook (food) partly or completely in advance, esp. so as to be heated up again later for eating

pre·cur·sor /prɪˈkɜːsəʳ‖-ˈkɜːr-/ *n* [(**of, to**)] *fml* something that comes before another and leads to it or is developed into it: *The precursor of the modern car was a horseless carriage with a petrol engine.* | *Rapidly rising inflation has traditionally been a precursor to recession.*

pre·date /priːˈdeɪt/ *v* [T (**by**)] to be earlier in history than; ANTEDATE: *This coin predates the Roman occupation.*

pred·a·tor /ˈpredətəʳ/ *n* **1** a predatory animal or bird **2** a predatory person

pred·a·to·ry /ˈpredətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj* **1** also **pre·da·ceous, pre·da·cious** /prɪˈdeɪʃəs/ *fml rare*— (esp. of a wild animal) that kills and eats other animals **2** having the habit of trying to take other people's property: (fig.) *Watch out for that predatory female – she's after everyone else's husband!*

pre·de·cease /ˌpriːdɪˈsiːs/ *v* [T] *law* to die before (someone): *If you should predecease your wife …*

pre·de·ces·sor /ˈpriːdə̩sesəʳ‖ˈpre-/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a person who held a position before someone else: *Our new doctor is much younger than his predecessor.* **2** something formerly used, but which has now been changed for something else: *This is the fifth plan we've made and it's no better than any of its predecessors.* —compare SUCCESSOR

pre·des·ti·na·tion /prɪˌdestə̩ˈneɪʃən, ˌpriːdes-/ *n* [U] **1** the belief that God has decided everything that will happen, and that no human effort can change things —compare FREE WILL (2) **2** the belief that by God's wish some souls will go to heaven after death, and others will go to HELL

pre·des·tine /prɪˈdestə̩n/ *v* [T (**to**) *often pass.*] *fml* to settle in advance, esp. as if by fate or the will of God: *The plan seemed predestined to failure.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *It seemed predestined to fail.* | *It was as if we were predestined to meet.*

pre·de·ter·mine /ˌpriːdɪˈtɜːmə̩n‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *fml* **1** to fix unchangeably from the beginning: *The colour of a person's eyes is predetermined by those of his parents.* **2** to arrange in advance; PREARRANGE: *We met at a predetermined spot a few miles out of town.* —**-mination** /ˌpriːdɪtɜːməˈneɪʃən‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U]

pre·de·ter·min·er /ˌpriːdɪˈtɜːmə̩nəʳ‖-ɜːr-/ *n tech* a word that can be used before a DETERMINER (=word such as **the**, **that**, **his**, etc.): *In the phrases "all the boys" and "both his parents", the words "all" and "both" are predeterminers.*

pre·dic·a·ment /prɪˈdɪkəmənt/ *n* a difficult or unpleasant situation in which one does not know what to do, or must make a difficult choice

pred·i·cate[1] /ˈpredɪkə̩t/ *n* the part of a sentence which makes a statement about the subject: *In "Fishes swim" and "She is an artist", "swim" and "is an artist" are predicates.*

pred·i·cate[2] /ˈpredə̩keɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** [(**on**) *often pass.*] to take something as a reason for doing (something else); base: *The company's plans to increase production were predicated on the growing demand for computer products.* **2** [(**of**)] to state that (a particular quality) belongs to (someone or something): *We predicate rationality of man.*

pre·dic·a·tive /prɪˈdɪkətɪv‖ˈpredə̩keɪ-/ *adj* (esp. of an adjective or phrase) coming after a verb: *In "He is alive", "alive" is a predicative adjective.* —compare ATTRIBUTIVE —**~ly** *adv*

pre·dict /prɪˈdɪkt/ *v* [T] to see or describe (a future happening) in advance as a result of knowledge, experience, thought, etc.: *The economists predicted an increase in the rate of inflation.* [+*that*] *The fortune-teller predicted that I would marry a doctor.* [+*wh-*] *It's hard to predict when it will happen.* —compare FORECAST[1]

pre·dic·ta·ble /prɪˈdɪktəbəl/ *adj* **1** that can be predicted **2** *derog* not being or doing anything unexpected or showing any imagination: *You're so predictable!* —opposite **unpredictable** —**-bly** *adv* : *Predictably, he came late.* (=it could be expected because he always does) —**-bility** /prɪˌdɪktəˈbɪlə̩ti/ *n* [U]

pre·dic·tion /prɪˈdɪkʃən/ *n* [C;U] the act of predicting or something predicted: *Her prediction turned out to be correct.* [+*that*] *He made a prediction that the government would be defeated at the general election.* —**-tive** /ˈdɪktɪv/ *adj* —**-tively** *adv*

pre·di·gest /ˌpriːdaɪˈdʒest, ˌpriːdə̩-/ *v* [T] **1** to make (food) easier for sick people or babies to take, esp. by chemical treatment **2** *infml, often derog* to make simpler, for easy use: *predigested facts*

pre·di·lec·tion /ˌpriːdɪˈlekʃən‖ˌpredlˈek-/ *n* [(**for**)] *fml* a special liking that has become a habit: *a predilection for dangerous sports*

pre·dis·pose /ˌpriːdɪsˈpəʊz/ *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*/*to-v*] *rather fml* to influence (someone) in the stated way, esp. in advance: *Her father is of course predisposed in her favour.* (=tends to think favourably of her) | *His weak chest predisposes him to* (=makes him tend to have) *winter illnesses.* | *After all the bad things I'd heard about her I wasn't predisposed to like her.* (=I thought I would dislike her) —compare PREJUDICE[2]

pre·dis·po·si·tion /ˌpriːdɪspəˈzɪʃən/ *n* [(**to, towards**)] a state of body or mind that is favourable to something, often something bad: *a predisposition to arthritis* | *an unhealthy predisposition towards violence*

pre·dom·i·nant /prɪˈdɒmə̩nənt‖-ˈdɑː-/ *adj* [(**over**)] most powerful, noticeable, or important, or largest in number: *Bright red was the predominant colour in the room.* —**-nance** *n* [S;U (**of**)] *fml*: *There is a predominance of black people* (=more of them than other races) *in the population of Jamaica.* —compare PREPONDERANCE

pre·dom·i·nant·ly /prɪˈdɒmə̩nəntli‖-ˈdɑː-/ *adv rather fml* mostly; mainly: *Jamaica's population is predominantly black.*

pre·dom·i·nate /prɪˈdɒmə̩neɪt‖-ˈdɑː-/ *v* [I (**over**)] **1** to have the main power or influence: *The views of the left wing have tended to predominate within the party.* **2** to be greater or greatest in numbers, force, etc.; be most noticeable: *In northern areas pine forests predominate (over deciduous woodland).*

pree·mie /ˈpriːmi/ *n AmE infml* a PREMATURE (2) baby

pre·em·i·nent /priːˈemə̩nənt/ *adj* [(**in, among, at**)] *fml apprec* above all others in having some usu. good quality, ability, or main activity: *This country has always been*

preeminent in the field of medical research. –~**ly** *adv* –**-nence** *n* [U]

pre·empt /priːˈempt/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to make (something) ineffective, or remove any reason for doing (something), by taking action in advance: *The council found that their traffic plans had been preempted by a government decision.* –compare PRECLUDE –~**ion** /ˈempʃən/ *n* [U]

pre·emp·tive /priːˈemptɪv/ *adj* done before other people have a chance to act, and in order to prevent them from doing so: *a preemptive offer for the property our competitors wanted to buy* | *The army launched a* **preemptive strike** (=attack) *against the enemy.* –~**ly** *adv*

preen /priːn/ *v* [I;T] (of a bird) to clean or smooth (itself or its feathers) with its beak: (fig.) *He was preening himself in front of the mirror.*

preen sbdy. **on/upon** sthg. *phr v* [T] *derog rare* to feel proud of or satisfied with (oneself) because of (an action or quality)

pre·ex·ist /ˌpriːɪgˈzɪst/ *v* [I] *fml* to exist before, esp. as a soul before uniting with the present body –~**ence** *n* [U] –~**ent** *adj*

pre·fab /ˈpriːfæb‖ˌpriːˈfæb/ *n infml* a small prefabricated house, esp. of the type put up in Britain and elsewhere after the Second World War. Prefabs were intended as temporary homes to replace houses which were destroyed in the war, though some prefabs are still in use in Britain now.

pre·fab·ri·cate /priːˈfæbrɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] to make (the parts of a building, ship, etc.) in a factory in large numbers and standard sizes, ready for fitting together in any place chosen for building –**-cation** /priːˌfæbrɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pre·fab·ri·cat·ed /priːˈfæbrɪkeɪtɨd/ *adj* (of a building, ship, etc.) built out of prefabricated parts

pref·ace[1] /ˈprefɨs/ *n* [(**to**)] **1** an introduction to a book or speech **2** an action that is intended to introduce something else more important

▷ USAGE A **preface**, a **foreword**, and an **introduction** all come in the first pages of a book before the main contents. An **introduction** is usually longer than a **preface** or **foreword**. A **foreword** is sometimes more informal than a **preface** or **introduction**, or written from a more personal point of view. The **beginning** of the book is the early part of the actual contents, after the **preface**.◁

preface[2] *v* [T] *fml* **1** to act as a preface to: *Several pages of closely reasoned argument preface her account of the war.* **2** [*+obj+adv/prep*, esp. **with**] to introduce (speech or writing) in the stated way: *She prefaced her remarks with a few words of welcome to the guest speaker.* –compare PREFIX[2] (2)

pref·a·to·ry /ˈprefətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj fml* acting as a preface or introduction: *a few prefatory remarks*

pre·fect /ˈpriːfekt/ *n* **1** (in some British schools) an older pupil with certain powers to control and punish other pupils **2** (*sometimes cap.*) (in certain countries) a public officer or judge with duties in government, the police, or the army: *the Prefect of Police of Paris*

pre·fec·ture /ˈpriːfektʃʊəʳ‖-tʃər/ *n* **1** a governmental division or area of certain countries, such as France and Japan **2** (in France) the official home or place of work of a prefect

pre·fer /prɪˈfɜːʳ/ *v* **-rr-** [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** [(**to**)] to choose (one thing or action) rather than another; like better: *"Would you like meat or fish?" "I'd prefer meat, please."* | *I much prefer dogs to cats.* [*+v-ing*] *I prefer singing to acting.* [*+to-v*] *He chose Spain, but personally I'd prefer to go to Greece.* [*+obj+to-v*] *"Let me wash the dishes – or would you prefer me to dry them?"* [*+that*] *Would you prefer that we reschedule the meeting for next week?* **2** *law* to officially make (a charge) against someone: *Since they are so young, the police have decided not to* **prefer charges/a charge**. **3** [(**to**)] *fml or tech* to appoint to a higher position, esp. in the church

pref·e·ra·ble /ˈprefərəbəl/ *adj* [(**to**)] better, esp. because more suitable; that one should or would prefer: *A dark suit is preferable to a light one for evening wear.* | *Anything is preferable to having her stay for the whole week!* –**-bly** *adv* : *I can meet you at any time tomorrow, but preferably not before 11 o'clock.* (=I would prefer not before 11 o'clock)

pref·e·rence /ˈprefərəns/ *n* [C;U] **1** (**for, to**)] (a) liking for one thing rather than another: *Of the two, my preference is for the smaller car.* | *I don't know your preferences, so please help yourself.* (=choose the things you prefer) | *"Would you like tea or coffee?" "Either; I've no strong preference."* | *He always drinks red wine* **in preference to** (=rather than) *white.* **2** [(**over, to**)] (a) special favour or consideration shown to a person, group, etc., esp. in business matters: *We've granted that country special trade preferences.* | *In considering people for jobs, we give preference to those with some experience.* | *Teachers try not to show preference to any particular student.*

preference share /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *BrE*‖**preferred stock** *AmE– n* a SHARE[1] (2) in a public company that usu. pays a fixed rather than a variable DIVIDEND, and which would be worth more than an ordinary share if the company were to fail

pref·e·ren·tial /ˌprefəˈrenʃəl◂/ *adj* [A] of, giving, receiving, or showing PREFERENCE (2): *The theatre gives preferential booking privileges to its regular patrons.* | *a controversial new law that gives preferential treatment to certain minority groups* –~**ly** *adv* : *Don't expect to be treated preferentially.*

pre·fer·ment /prɪˈfɜːmənt‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U (**to**)] *fml or tech* appointment to a higher rank or position, esp. in the church

preferred stock /·ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U;C] *AmE for* PREFERENCE SHARE

pre·fig·ure /ˌpriːˈfɪgəʳ‖-gjər/ *v* [T] *fml* to be a sign of (something that will come later): *This meeting may prefigure an improvement in relations between the two countries.* –**-uration** /prɪˌfɪgəˈreɪʃən‖-gjə-/ *n* [C;U]

pre·fix[1] /ˈpriːfɪks/ *n* **1** (in grammar) an AFFIX added to the beginning of a word (as in *un*tie, *mis*understood) – compare SUFFIX **2** a title used before a person's name: *"Mr" and "Dr" are prefixes.* **3** a CODE[1] (3)

prefix[2] *v* [T] **1** to add a prefix to (a word or name) **2** [(**to**)] to add (something) to the beginning (of): *She prefixed a few complimentary remarks to her speech.* –compare PREFACE[2]

preg·nan·cy /ˈpregnənsi/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the condition of being pregnant: *You are advised not to smoke during pregnancy.* | *This is her third pregnancy.*

pregnancy test /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a test performed on a woman's URINE to find out whether she is pregnant or not. In many countries women can buy pregnancy test materials at the CHEMIST's and do the test themselves.

preg·nant /ˈpregnənt/ *adj* **1** (of a woman or female animal) having an unborn child or unborn young in the body: *She was pregnant with her second child.* | *How long has she been pregnant?* [after *n*] *She's five months pregnant.* **2** [A] full of important but unexpressed or hidden meaning: *His words were followed by a pregnant pause.* **3** [F+**with**] *fml* filled with something not yet fully known, understood, or developed; giving signs or warnings of some future development: *Every phrase in this poem is pregnant with meaning.* | *a situation pregnant with several interesting possibilities* –~**ly** *adv*

pre·heat /ˌpriːˈhiːt/ *v* [T] to heat up (an OVEN) to a particular temperature before using it for cooking

pre·hen·sile /prɪˈhensaɪl‖-səl/ *adj tech* (of a part of the body) able to curl round things and hold on to them: *The monkey was hanging from the branch by its prehensile tail.*

pre·his·tor·ic /ˌpriːhɪˈstɒrɪk◂‖-ˈstɔː-, -ˈstɑː-/ *adj* of a time before recorded history: *prehistoric man* | *prehistoric burial grounds* | (fig.) *His ideas on morals are really prehistoric.* (=very old-fashioned) –compare HISTORIC –~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pre·his·to·ry /priːˈhɪstəri/ *n* [U] the time in human history before there were any written records

pre·judge /ˌpriːˈdʒʌdʒ/ *v* [T] *derog* to form an opinion about (someone or something) before knowing or examining all the facts: *Try not to prejudge the issue.* –**-judgment, -judgement** *n* [C;U]

prej·u·dice[1] /ˈpredʒʊdɨs/ *n* **1** [C;U (**against, in favour of**)] (an) unfair and often unfavourable feeling or opinion formed without thinking deeply and clearly or without enough knowledge, and sometimes resulting from fear or distrust of ideas different from one's own: *They accused him of having a prejudice against his women employees.* | *A judge must be free from prejudice.* | *A new law has been brought in to discourage* **racial prejudice.**

(=prejudice against members of other races) **2** [U] *fml* **a** harm caused to something or someone by the action or judgment of another: *He continued to smoke, to the prejudice of his health.* **b** harm to one's own right or claim in law: *We accept this interim settlement,* **without prejudice to** *our claim for a full settlement later on.* (=we still keep our right to such a claim)

prejudice[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**against/in favour of**) *often pass.*] to cause to have a prejudice; influence unfairly: *She's prejudiced against French wine because she's Italian.* | *His pleasant voice and manner prejudiced the jury in his favour.* **2** to weaken or harm (someone's case, expectations, etc.): *Your bad spelling may prejudice your chances of getting the job.* —compare PREDISPOSE

prej·u·diced /ˈpredʒʊdɪst/ *adj derog* feeling or showing prejudice; unfair: *Don't ask him; he's prejudiced.* | *a prejudiced judgment* | *racially prejudiced* —opposite **unprejudiced**

prej·u·di·cial /ˌpredʒʊˈdɪʃəl◂/ *adj* [F+**to**] *rather fml* harmful: *Too much smoking is prejudicial to health.*

prel·ate /ˈprelɪt/ *n* a priest of high position in the church, such as a BISHOP or ABBOT

pre·lim·i·na·ry[1] /prɪˈlɪmɪnəri‖-neri/ *adj* [A] coming before and introducing or preparing for something more important: *The students take a preliminary test in March, and the main exam in July.* | *Our team got beaten in the preliminary rounds of the competition.* | *May I make a few preliminary remarks before we start the interview?*

preliminary[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] something done first, to introduce or prepare for later things: *There are a lot of preliminaries to be gone through before you can visit certain foreign countries.*

pre·lit·e·rate /ˌpriːˈlɪtərɪt/ *adj tech* not having a written language or keeping written records: *ancient preliterate societies* —compare ILLITERATE

prel·ude /ˈpreljuːd/ *n* [(**to**)] **1** [*usu. sing.*] something that is followed by something larger or more important: *The fighting in the streets may be a prelude to more serious trouble.* **2 a** a short piece of music that introduces a large musical work: *the prelude to Wagner's "Mastersingers"* **b** a short separate piece of music for piano or ORGAN

pre·mar·i·tal /priːˈmærɪtəl/ *adj* happening or existing before marriage —~**ly** *adv*

premar·i·tal con·tract /ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **prenuptial agreement**— *n AmE* an agreement made by two people getting married about how to divide up their property if they decide to separate. Premarital contracts are common in the US but not in Britain.

premarital sex /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [U] sexual relations between a man and a woman before marriage. In Britain, the US, and many other Western countries, this is thought to be quite common and it is not generally considered to be as immoral or shocking as it was in former times, though some groups are strongly against it, e.g. the Catholic Church.

pre·ma·ture /ˈpremətʃəʳ, -tʃʊəʳ, ˌpremaˈtʃʊəʳ‖ˌpriːməˈtʃʊər/ *adj* **1** developing or happening before the natural or proper time: *His premature death at the age of 32 is a great loss.* **2** (of a baby or birth) born or happening after less than the usual period of time inside the mother's body: [after *n*] *The baby was two months premature.* (=was born two months earlier than expected) **3** *derog* done too early or too soon: *I think your criticism of the new law is a bit premature, as we don't yet know all the details.* —~**ly** *adv*

pre·med /priːˈmed/ *n,adj AmE abbrev. for:* premedical; the university course a student takes before entering medical school: *premed studies* | *She's premed* (she is taking premedical studies).

pre·med·i·tat·ed /priːˈmedɪteɪtɪd‖prɪ-/ *adj often derog* planned in advance and done on purpose: *premeditated murder* | *a premeditated attack on my reputation* —opposite **unpremeditated** —**ion** /priːˌmedɪˈteɪʃən‖prɪ-/ *n* [U] *fml*: *The jury has to decide if the act was committed with premeditation.*

pre·men·stru·al /priːˈmenstruəl/ *adj tech* happening just before a PERIOD (4)

premenstrual ten·sion /ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **PMT, premenstrual syndrome**— *n* [U] the unpleasant feelings including tiredness, headaches and bad temper felt by many women during the days before a PERIOD (4), that are caused by changes in the levels of HORMONES in the body. In the past, many people did not take women seriously when they complained about these feelings. It is now generally accepted that PMT is quite common and can cause real suffering and upsetting changes in behaviour.

prem·i·er[1] /ˈpremiəʳ‖prɪˈmɪər/ *n* (*often cap.*) (esp. in newspapers) PRIME MINISTER: *The Irish premier is paying an official visit to Britain.* | *"Premier Wilson resigns"* (news story title) —~**ship** *n*

premier[2] *adj* [A] *fml apprec* finest or most important: *She attended Britain's premier university.*

Premier Di·vi·sion /ˌ··· ·ˈ··‖·ˌ· ·ˈ··/ [*the*] the top division in Scottish football —compare PREMIER LEAGUE; see also FOOTBALL (1)

prem·i·ere[1] **, -ère** /ˈpremieəʳ‖prɪˈmɪər/ *n* the first public performance of a play or film

premiere[2] **, -ère** *v* [T *often pass.*] to give a premiere of (a play or film): *His film was premiered in New York.*

Premier League /ˌ··· ˈ·‖·ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the top division in English football —compare PREMIER DIVISION; see also FOOTBALL (1)

Prem·in·ger /ˈpremɪndʒəʳ/, **Ot·to** /ˈɒtəʊ‖ˈɑː-/ (1906–86) an American film DIRECTOR, born in Austria. His films include *Anatomy of a Murder* and *Exodus.*

prem·ise /ˈpremɪs/ *n* **1** *fml* a statement or idea on which reasoning is based: [+*that*] *British and American justice works on the premise that an accused person is innocent until he's proved guilty.* **2** also **prem·iss** /ˈpremɪs/— *tech* (in LOGIC) either of two statements (**major premise** and **minor premise**) from which a third statement can be proved to be true

prem·is·es /ˈpremɪsɪz/ *n* [P] a building with any surrounding land, considered as a particular piece of property: *Taxes on business premises are higher than those on private premises.* | *Food bought in this shop may not be eaten* **on the premises.** (=must be taken away and eaten somewhere else)

pre·mi·um /ˈpriːmiəm/ *n* **1** [C] a payment made to buy insurance: *The annual premium on my policy is £50.* **2** [C] an additional amount of money (above a standard rate) **3** [U] *AmE* HIGH-OCTANE petrol **4 at a premium: a** (of a business share) at a rate above the usual value **b** rare or difficult to get, and therefore worth more than usual: *During the holiday months hotel rooms are at a premium.* **5 put a premium on** to cause (a quality or action) to be advantageous: *Work paid according to the amount done puts a premium on speed and not on quality.*

premium bond /ˈ··· ·/ *n* (*often caps.*) (in Britain) a numbered piece of paper bought from the government, that gives the buyer the chance of a monthly prize of a small or large amount of money —see also ERNIE

pre·mo·ni·tion /ˌpremaˈnɪʃən, ˌpriː-/ *n* [(**of**)] a feeling that something, esp. something unpleasant, is going to happen; forewarning: *The day before her accident, she had a premonition of danger.*

pre·mon·i·to·ry /prɪˈmɒnɪtəri‖-ˈmɑːnɪtɔːri/ *adj fml* giving a warning

pre·na·tal /ˌpriːˈneɪtl◂/ *adj AmE for* ANTENATAL —~**ly** *adv*

pre·nup·tial a·gree·ment /priːˌnʌpʃəl əˈgriːmənt/ *n* see PREMARITAL CONTRACT

pre·oc·cu·pa·tion /priːˌɒkjʊˈpeɪʃən‖-ˌɑːk-/ *n* **1** [S;U (**with**)] the state of being preoccupied: *Such an excessive preoccupation with one's health can't be normal.* **2** [C] something that takes up one's attention: *He's got so many preoccupations at the moment that he ignores his family completely.*

pre·oc·cu·pied /priːˈɒkjʊpaɪd‖-ˈɑːk-/ *adj* [(**with**)] with the mind fixed on something, esp. something worrying, so that one pays no attention to anything else: *a preoccupied expression* | *Come and see me next week, when I'm not so preoccupied with the annual accounts.*

pre·oc·cu·py /priːˈɒkjʊpaɪ‖-ˈɑːk-/ *v* [T] to fill the thoughts of (someone or someone's mind) almost completely, esp. so that not enough attention is given to other things: *Something's been preoccupying you lately – what is it?*

pre·or·dain /ˌpriːɔːˈdeɪn‖-ɔːr-/ *v* [T (**to**) *usu. pass.*] *fml* (esp. of God or fate) to fix or decide in advance or from the beginning: *I sometimes think our failure was preordained.*

[+(*that*)] *Perhaps it was preordained that we should fail.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *We seemed preordained to fail.* —~**ment, -dination** /ˌpriːɔːdˈneɪʃən‖-ɔːr-/ *fml n* [C;U]

prep[1] /prep/ *n* [U] *BrE infml* school work that is done at home. This word is more often used by children in private schools than in STATE SCHOOLS, where the usual word is HOMEWORK.

prep[2] *v* **-pp-** *AmE infml* **1** [I] to attend PREPARATORY school: *My little brother's still prepping.* **2** [I] to do school work at home **3** [T] to prepare (someone) for an operation or examination: *The nurse prepped the patient for surgery.*

prep[3] *n written abbrev. for:* PREPOSITION

pre·pack /ˌpriːˈpæk/ also **pre·pack·age** /-ˈpækɪdʒ/— *v* [T] to wrap up (food or other articles) before offering it for sale

pre·paid /ˌpriːˈpeɪd◂/ *adj* already paid for: *Return the film in the prepaid envelope.* (=the user does not have to put a stamp on)

prep·a·ra·tion /ˌprepəˈreɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U (**for, of**)] the act or process of preparing: *He didn't do enough preparation for his exam, and failed.* | *Plans for the new school are now in preparation.* (=being prepared) **2** [C (**for**) *usu. pl.*] an arrangement for a future event: *Preparations for the queen's visit are almost complete.* **3** [C] something that has been made by mixing a number of (chemical) substances, usu. for use as a medicine, COSMETIC, etc.: *a new preparation for cleaning the skin*

pre·par·a·to·ry /prɪˈpærətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj* [A] **1** done in order to get ready for something: *preparatory talks to clear the way for a settlement* **2 preparatory to** *fml* as a preparation for; before: *several meetings preparatory to signing the contract*

preparatory school /·ˈ···· ·/ also **prep school** *infml*— *n* **1** (in Britain) a private school for children between the ages of 8 and 13, where they are made ready to attend a school for older pupils, usu. a PUBLIC SCHOOL. Only a small PERCENTAGE of school-age children attend these schools. Most preparatory schools are for boys only or girls only. **2** (in the US) a private school that makes pupils ready for college

pre·pare /prɪˈpeəʳ/ *v* **1** [T (**for**)] to put into a suitable state for a purpose, event, or experience: *First prepare the rice by washing it, then cook it in boiling water.* | *a course that prepares students for the English exams* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *preparing the city to withstand an attack* **2** [T (**for**)] to put together or make, e.g. by combining things: *The defence lawyers asked for another week to prepare their case.* | *John is preparing a meal for us.* [+*obj*(*i*)+*obj*(*d*)] *John is preparing us a meal.* **3** [I;T (**for**)] to get ready or make by collecting supplies, making necessary arrangements, planning, studying, etc.: *Will you help me prepare for the party?* | *Who prepared these building plans?* [+*to-v*] *They are busy preparing to go on holiday.* **4** [I;T (**for**)] to put (oneself) into a suitable state of mind for something: *Prepare (yourself) for a shock.* [+*to-v*] *Prepare to die, you cowardly traitor!* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *He prepared himself to accept defeat.*

pre·pared /prɪˈpeəd‖-ˈpeərd/ *adj* **1** made in advance: *The chairman read out a prepared statement.* **2** [F+*to-v*] willing: *I'm not prepared to listen to all your weak excuses.* **3** [F+**for**] expecting: *I wasn't prepared for such a large bill.* **4 Be prepared** the MOTTO of the BOY SCOUTS, often used humorously when saying that a person should carry a particular thing with them because it might be useful

pre·pared·ness /prɪˈpeədnəs, -ˈpeərɪd-‖-ˈpeərəd-, -ˈpeərd-/ *n* [U] (the state of) being ready for something: *the country's lack of military preparedness*

pre·pay /ˌpriːˈpeɪ/ *v* **-paid** /ˈpeɪd/ [T] to pay for (something) in advance: *All accommodation must be prepaid.*

pre·pon·de·rance /prɪˈpɒndərəns‖-ˈpɑːn-/ *n* [S (**of**)] *fml* the state of being greater in amount, number, etc.: *There was a preponderance of female students in the music department.* (=there were more females than males) —compare PREDOMINANT —**-rant** *adj* [(**over**)] —**-rantly** *adv*

pre·pon·de·rate /prɪˈpɒndəreɪt‖-ˈpɑːn-/ *v* [I (**over**)] *fml* to be greater in quantity, importance, influence, etc.

prep·o·si·tion /ˌprepəˈzɪʃən/ *n* a word used with a noun, PRONOUN, or *-ing* form to show its connection with another word: *In "a house made of wood" and "We opened it by breaking the lock", "of",* and *"by" are prepositions: Words followed by Prepositions* —~**al** *adj* —~**ally** *adv*: *In "He went out of the door", "out" is being used prepositionally.*

prepositional phrase /ˌ····· ˈ·/ *n tech* a phrase consisting of a preposition and the noun following it (such as *in bed, in his bed, in the bed*)

pre·pos·sessed /ˌpriːpəˈzest/ *adj* [F] *fml* **1** [+**by**] favourably influenced **2** PREOCCUPIED —**-session** /ˈzeʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pre·pos·sess·ing /ˌpriːpəˈzesɪŋ◂/ *adj fml apprec* producing a favourable effect at once; attractive: *a prepossessing smile* —opposite **unprepossessing**

pre·pos·ter·ous /prɪˈpɒstərəs‖-ˈpɑːs-/ *adj fml* **1** completely unreasonable; ABSURD: *What a preposterous suggestion!* **2** foolish in a way that makes people laugh: *Look at that preposterous car — 25 feet long and covered in chromium!* —~**ly** *adv*

prep·py /ˈprepi/ *adj AmE infml* typical of students or former students of expensive private schools in the US, esp. in being neat and well-dressed: *a preppy girl* | *preppy clothes* | *a bar that caters for the rich preppy set*

preppies



prep school /ˈ· ·/ *n infml for* PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Pre-Raph·ael·ite /ˌpriː-ˈræfəlaɪt‖-fiəlaɪt/ *n* a person belonging to the group of late 19th-century English painters (**Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood**) who based their work on the supposed artistic principles and practices of the late Middle Ages, turning away from industrialized Britain to look for the beauty of the past. Their paintings had many small details and often used bright colours on a white background. One of the best-known Pre-Raphaelites was D G ROSSETTI and one of the most famous followers of the group was William Morris. —**Pre-Raphaelite** *adj*

pre·re·cord /ˌpriːrɪˈkɔːd‖-ˈkɔːrd/ *v* [T] to record (music, a play, a speech, etc.) on a machine for later use

pre·req·ui·site /priːˈrekwəzət/ *n* [(**of, for, to**)] *fml* something that is necessary before something else can happen or be done: *A reasonable proficiency in English is a prerequisite of/for joining this advanced course.*

pre·rog·a·tive /prɪˈrɒgətɪv‖-ˈrɑː-/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a special right belonging to a particular person, esp. because of the official position they hold: *The President may use his prerogative to pardon a criminal.* —compare PRIVILEGE (1); see also ROYAL PREROGATIVE

pres. *written abbrev. for:* **1** present **2** (*usu. cap.*) president

pres·age[1] /ˈpresɪdʒ, prəˈseɪdʒ/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *fml or lit* to be a warning or sign of (a future event)

pres·age[2] /ˈpresɪdʒ/ *n* [(**of**)] *lit* a warning feeling or sign that something, esp. something bad, will happen

Pres·by·te·ri·an /ˌprezbəˈtɪəriən◂/ *n, adj* (a member) of a Protestant church governed by a body of official people all of equal rank and following the principles of Calvinism including severe rules of behaviour and morals. John Knox established Presbyterianism in Scotland where it has had a great influence on society, and there are also Presbyterian churches in other parts of the UK, the US, and other countries. —~**ism** *n* [U]

pres·by·ter·y /ˈprezbətəri‖-teri/ *n* **1** (in the Presbyterian Church) (the area controlled by) a local court or ruling body **2** (in the Roman Catholic Church) the house in which a local priest lives **3** the eastern part of a church, behind the place where the CHOIR (=trained singers) sit

pre·school[1] /ˌpriːˈskuːl◂/ *adj* [A] of or in the time in a child's life before it goes to school

pre·school[2] /ˈpriːskuːl/ *n AmE for* NURSERY SCHOOL

pre-school play·group /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* PLAYGROUP

pre·sci·ent /ˈpreʃiənt/ *adj lit or fml* able to imagine or guess what will probably happen —**-ence** *n* [U]

pre·scribe /prɪˈskraɪb/ *v* [I;T (**for**)] **1** to say (what medicine or treatment) a sick person should or must have:

What can you prescribe for the pain in my back, doctor? **2** *fml* to state (what must happen or be done in certain conditions): *What punishment does the law prescribe for this crime?* [+*wh*-] *Someone who does such foolish things as you has no right to prescribe how others should behave.* —compare PROSCRIBE

pre·scribed /prɪˈskraɪbd/ *adj* fixed (as if) by rule: *It's quite an informal job; you don't have to work a prescribed number of hours.*

pre·script /ˈpriːˌskrɪpt/ *n fml* an order or rule that is prescribed (PRESCRIBE (2))

pre·scrip·tion /prɪˈskrɪpʃən/ *n* **1** [C (**for**)] **a** a particular medicine or treatment ordered by a doctor for a person's illness: (fig.) *What's your prescription for a happy marriage?* (=What do you suggest is needed to make a marriage happy?) **b** a written order describing this, which is given to a person by his or her doctor (in Britain, a GP) and is then taken to a CHEMIST (*BrE*) or PHARMACIST (*AmE*) who will supply the medicine described in it. There are certain drugs and medicines which chemists are not allowed to sell to people without prescriptions. **2** [U] the act of prescribing

prescription charge /ˈ·ˌ·· ·/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] (in Britain) an amount of money that has to be paid (usu. to a CHEMIST) when getting medicine through the National Health Service. These charges increased in the 1980s but still do not represent the full cost of the medicine. Certain groups of people, e.g. children, old people, and the unemployed, do not have to pay. In the US, people have to pay the full amount for any medicine that they need.

pre·scrip·tive /prɪˈskrɪptɪv/ *adj* **1** *tech, sometimes derog* saying how a language ought to be used, rather than simply describing how it is used: *prescriptive grammar* — compare DESCRIPTIVE (2) **2** *fml* saying how something should be done or what someone should do —**-tivism** *n* [U] —**-tivist** *n* —~**ly** *adv*

prescriptive right /ˈ·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n law* a right to do something which has existed for so long by custom that it has the force of law

pres·ence /ˈprezəns/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of being present: *She was so quiet that her presence was hardly noticed.* | *Your presence is requested at the club meeting on Thursday.* | *He never seemed at ease in my presence.* (=when I was there; when we were together) | *The concert will be performed in the presence of the Queen.* (=she will attend it) | *The police scientists detected the presence of poison in the dead woman's blood.* —opposite **absence** **2** [S] a group of people of the stated type in a place, regarded as a sign that they or their country are active or have influence there: *He advocated the withdrawal of the American presence in the Lebanon.* | *There was a strong police presence at the anti-nuclear rally.* **3** [S;U] *apprec* personal qualities and ways of behaving that have a strong effect on others: *a man of great presence* **4** [C *usu. sing.*] a spirit or an influence that cannot be seen but is felt to be near: *I could feel a strange presence in the room.* **5 make one's presence felt** to have a strong noticeable effect (on the people around one): *Since she joined the team last season she has really made her presence felt.* (=by playing well)

presence of mind /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] *apprec* the ability to act calmly, quickly, and wisely in conditions of sudden danger or surprise: *When the fire started in the kitchen, John had the presence of mind to turn off the gas.*

pres·ent[1] /ˈprezənt/ *n* **1** something that is given willingly, without the expectation that anything will be given in return; a gift: *They unwrapped their Christmas presents.* —see colour picture on page 1212 **2 make someone a present of something: a** to give someone something as a gift: *I don't want all these old books; I'll make you a present of them.* **b** *infml* to give something away to someone carelessly: *They made the other team a present of a goal by careless play.*

pre·sent[2] /prɪˈzent/ *v* **1** [T (**to, with**)] to give (something) away, esp. at a ceremonial occasion: *to present the prizes at the annual flower show* | *When Mr. Brown left the firm, the director presented a gold watch to him/presented him with a gold watch.* | (fig.) *His wife presented him with a brand-new baby girl.* **2** [T (**to, with**)] to be the cause of: *He's clever with computers; they present no problems to him.* | *His sudden resignation presents us with a tricky situation.* **3** [T (**to**)] to offer for consideration or acceptance: *When are the committee presenting their report?* **4** [T (**to**)] to be when looked at; show: *The grim walls of the prison present a forbidding picture to a new inmate.* **5** [T] to provide for the public to see or hear in a theatre, cinema, etc.: *The National Theatre is presenting "King Lear" next month.* **6** [T] to introduce and take part in (a television or radio show): *And here to present the show tonight is Bob Hope.* **7** [T (**to**)] *fml* to offer politely: *Mrs Gottlieb presents her apologies, but she won't be able to attend.* | *Mr Cox* **presents his compliments** (=greets you politely), *and asks if you will join him.* **8** [T (**to**)] *fml* to introduce (someone) formally, esp. to someone of higher rank: *He had the honour of being presented to the Queen.* | *May I present Mr. Jobbings?* **9 present arms** (used esp. in giving a military order) to hold a weapon upright in front of the body as a ceremonial greeting to an officer or person of high rank **10 present itself: a** (of an idea) to arrive in the mind, esp. unexpectedly **b** (of something possible) to happen: *If the chance to buy this farm presents itself, buy it.* **11 present oneself** *fml* (of a person) to attend; arrive; be present: *He was ordered to present himself at the chairman's office at nine o'clock next morning.*

pres·ent[3] /ˈprezənt/ *adj* **1** [F] in this/that place; here/there: *How many people were present at the meeting?* | *Small amounts of the gas are present in the atmosphere.* | *It was unfair to discuss his case if he wasn't present.* —opposite **absent** **2** [A] existing or being considered now: *What's your present address?* | *It's usually best to wait, but in the present case* (=in this case) *I'd advise you to act without delay.* **3** [A] being the form of a verb that shows an existing state or act: *"He wants" and "They are coming" are examples of verbs in the present tense.* **4** [F] *fml* strongly felt, remembered, or imagined: *The tragic death of her son last year is still present in her mind.* **5 all present and correct** *humor* a phrase said by someone who is reporting that all the people or things that should be in a place are now there **6 present company (always) excepted** (used when making unfavourable or rude remarks about people) not including anyone now here in this place —see also PRESENTLY

present[4] *n* [*the*] **1** the PRESENT[3] (2) time: *encouraging them to live in the present and not have regrets over lost opportunities in the past* | *"I'm thinking of asking her to marry me." "Well, there's* **no time like the present."** (=you should ask her now) **2** *tech* (in grammar) the form of a verb that shows what exists or is happening now —see also HISTORIC PRESENT **3 at present: a** now; at this time; at this moment: *She's busy at present and can't speak to you.* **b** during this period of time: *At present he's Professor of Chemistry at Oxford.* —see PRESENTLY (USAGE) **4 for the present** now but not necessarily in the future: *Let's leave things as they are for the present; we can always make changes later on if we have to.*

pre·sen·ta·ble /prɪˈzentəbəl/ *adj apprec* suitable to be shown, heard, etc., in public; fit to be seen and judged: *He looked very presentable in his new suit.* | *I'm just going upstairs to* **make myself presentable** (=make my appearance tidy) *before the guests arrive.* | *The children made quite a presentable snowman.* —**-bly** *adv*

pre·sen·ta·tion /ˌprezənˈteɪʃən‖ˌpriːzen-, -zən-/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] the act of presenting something: *There are two presentations of the cabaret each night.* | *The presentation of prizes will begin at three o'clock.* **2** [U (**of**)] the way in which something is said, offered, shown, explained, etc., to others: *It's this product's attractive presentation* (=the way it is wrapped up, advertised, etc.) *that makes it sell so well.* **3** [C (**on**)] a talk, usu. to a group of people, in which information is given: *The sales director will give a short presentation on the new sales campaign.* **4** [C;U] *med* the position in which a baby is lying in the mother's body just before birth —~**al** *adj* : *Our party's policies are right; our only problems are presentational.* (=we do not explain them in a way that makes them seem attractive)

presentation copy /ˌ··ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a book given away free, esp. by the writer

pres·ent-day /ˌprezənt ˈdeɪ◂/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] modern; existing now

pre·sent·er /prɪˈzentəʳ/ esp. *BrE* ‖ *announcer, host AmE* — *n* a person who PRESENTS[2] (6) a television or radio show

pre·sen·ti·ment /prɪˈzentɪmənt/ *n* [(**of**)] *fml* an unexplained uncomfortable feeling that something, esp. something bad, is going to happen; PREMONITION: *a presentiment of danger*

pres·ent·ly /ˈprezəntli/ *adv* **1** in a short time; soon: *The doctor will be here presently.* **2** *esp. AmE & ScotE* at present; now: *The doctor is presently writing a book.*

▷ USAGE British speakers are beginning to use **presently** to mean "now", as the Americans do, rather than "soon". **At present** always means "now".◁

present par·ti·ci·ple /ˌ·· ˈ···· / *n tech* (in grammar) a PARTICIPLE that is formed in English by adding **-ing** to the verb and can be used in compound forms of the verb to show PROGRESSIVE tenses (such as *sleeping* in *She's sleeping*), or sometimes as an adjective (such as *sleeping* in *a sleeping child*) —compare VERBAL NOUN

present per·fect /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **present perfect tense** /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* [*the*+S] *fml or tech for* PERFECT[3]

pres·er·va·tion /ˌprezəˈveɪʃən‖-zər-/ *n* [U] the act of preserving or state of being preserved: *The police are responsible for the preservation of law and order.* | *The old building is in a good state of preservation* (=in good condition after a long time) *except for the wooden floors.* —see also SELF-PRESERVATION

preservation or·der /··ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n esp. BrE* an official order that something, esp. a historical building, must be preserved and not destroyed

pre·ser·va·tive /prɪˈzɜːvətɪv‖-ɜːr-/ *n, adj* [C;U] (a usu. chemical substance) that can be used to PRESERVE[1] (3) foods. In many countries, there are now rules about the use of preservatives because of the dangers to health —see E NUMBER

pre·serve[1] /prɪˈzɜːv‖-ɜːrv/ *v* [T] **1** [(**from**)] to prevent (someone or something) from being harmed or destroyed: *The ancient Egyptians knew ways to preserve dead bodies (from decay).* | *I think these interesting old customs should be preserved.* | *(humor) Lord preserve us from these so-called experts!* **2** to cause (a condition) to last; keep unchanged: *He's managed to preserve his independence.* | *It's the duty of the police to preserve public order.* **3** [(**in**)] to treat (food) in such a way that it can be kept a long time: *preserved fruit* | *figs preserved in brandy* —see also WELL-PRESERVED —**-servable** *adj* —**-server** *n*

preserve[2] *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*; U] (*often in comb.*) *becoming old-fash* a substance made from fruit boiled in sugar, used esp. for spreading on bread; JAM: *strawberry preserve* **2** [C] a stretch of land or water kept for private hunting or fishing **3** [C] something that belongs to or is for the use of only a certain person or limited number of people: *She considers the arranging of flowers in the church to be her own personal preserve.* | *In the past, fire-fighting|child-care has always been a male|female preserve.*

pre·set /ˌpriːˈset/ *v* **preset,** *present participle* **presetting** [T] to set in advance: *You can preset the video to record programmes while you are out.*

pre·shrunk /ˌpriːˈʃrʌŋk◂/ *adj* (of cloth) made to SHRINK before being sold in order to prevent shrinking after use

pre·side /prɪˈzaɪd/ *v* [I (**at, over**)] *fml* to be in charge (of); lead: *Who is presiding at this meeting?* | *the presiding officer* | *As prime minister, she presided over the biggest ever rise in unemployment.*

pres·i·den·cy /ˈprezɨdənsi/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] the office of president: *Roosevelt was elected four times to the presidency of the US.* **2** the period during which a person is president

pres·i·dent /ˈprezɨdənt/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** (*often cap.*) the leader, and often also ruler or chief governing official, of many modern states that do not have a king or queen: *the President of France* | *President Bush* —see extra information on page 568 and see colour picture on page 950

►CULTURAL NOTE In the US, an election for president is held every four years. Presidents cannot serve more than two TERMS (periods of time), which means that no president can remain in power for longer than eight years. This rule only started in the 1940s, but President Franklin Roosevelt is the only president to have served more than two terms. It is often said that any child born in the US can grow up to become president, because one does not need to come from the upper class or have an important family to become president, although these things sometimes help. Women may run for president, but so far no woman has become president.◄

2 (*sometimes cap.*) the head of a club or society, some universities or colleges, some government departments, etc.: *the President of the Royal Academy* | *I was invited to become president of the local camera club.* **3** *esp. AmE* (*sometimes cap.*) the head of a business company, bank, etc.: *the president of General Motors* —**~ial** /ˌprezɨˈdenʃəl◂/ *adj* : *presidential government* | *a presidential election* | (*AmE*) *Next year will be a presidential year.* (=there will be an election to choose a president)

president pro tem·po·re /ˌprezɨdənt prəʊ ˈtempəreɪ/ also **president pro tem** /ˌ··· · ˈ·/ *infml*— *n* a member of the US Senate who is elected by the other members of the Senate to control the course of its business when the US Vice-President, who is usu. responsible, is away

President's Day /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* an American public holiday in February which celebrates the birthdays of presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

pre·sid·i·um, praes- /prɪˈsɪdiəm, -ˈzɪ-/ *n* **~s** *or* **-ia** /-diə/ (esp. in Communist countries) a committee chosen to represent and act for a larger body, esp. a political body: *the presidium of the Supreme Soviet*

Pres·ley /ˈprezli/, **El·vis** /ˈelvɨs/ (1935–77) an American singer and GUITAR player who made ROCK 'N' ROLL (later called ROCK) popular in the 1950s. From 1956–63, he was the most successful and influential person in popular music. He was sometimes called "Elvis the Pelvis" because of the way he moved the lower half of his body during his performances. His many successful records include *Heartbreak Hotel* and *Don't be Cruel*, and he also appeared in films including *Loving You* and *G I Blues*. —see also ELVIS SIGHTING and see colour picture on page 554

press[1] /pres/ *v* **1** [T] to push firmly and steadily: *Press this button to start the engine.* | *I pressed a coin into the little girl's hand.* | *The little boy pressed his nose against the shop window.* **2** [T] to put weight onto (something) in order to crush, flatten, shape, pack tightly, or get liquid out: *To make wine, first you must press the grapes.* | *pressed flowers* | *Before cooking, the pastry must be pressed flat and thin.* **3** [T] to give (a garment) a smooth surface and a sharp fold by using a hot iron; IRON[2] **4** [T] to take hold of (a part of the body) firmly as a sign of friendship, love, pity, etc.: *He pressed my hand warmly when we met.* **5** [I+*adv*/*prep*] to push one's way roughly, esp. in a mass: *Crowds pressed round her trying to get her autograph.* **6** [T+*obj*+*to-v*] to urge strongly: *She pressed her guests to stay a little longer.* —see also PRESS **for** **7** [T] to continue to try to gain acceptance of: *In view of their limited financial resources, we shall not press our claim for compensation.* (=we shall stop making the claim) | *I suggested we make a joint appeal, but he didn't seem very keen, so I didn't press the point.* **8** [I] *infml* to make quick action or attention necessary: *Work presses|Time presses* (=there is not much time), *so I can't stop to talk.* —see also PRESS **on**, PRESSING[1] **9** [T] *tech* to make a copy of (a GRAMOPHONE record, etc.) —see also PRESSING[2] **10 press home: a** to get the greatest possible effect from (an advantage) **b** to continue (an attack) forcefully and successfully **11 press the flesh** *infml humor* to shake hands. This phrase is often used in connection with political CANDIDATES, who meet many people and try to influence them in the weeks before an election: *I've had a busy day walking round the ward, kissing babies, pressing the flesh, and all that.*

press (sbdy.) **for** sthg. *phr v* [T] to demand urgently (from): *I don't know whether to accept this new job, and the firm is pressing (me) for a decision.*

press on *phr v* **1** [I (**with**)] also **press ahead**— to continue with determination or without delay: *Let's press on with our work.* | *Shall we stop here or press on to the next town?* **2** [T] (**press** sthg. **on** sbdy.) to force (someone) to accept (something)): *He tried to press another drink on me.*

press[2] *n* **1** [(*the*) U+*sing.*/*pl. v*] (writers and reporters working for) newspapers and magazines, and usu. also the news-gathering services of radio and television: *The minister invited the press to a meeting to explain his actions.* | *It's vital to protect the freedom of the press.* (=their freedom to print news and fair opinion without being stopped by the government) | *a press photographer* —see also GUTTER PRESS **2** [S] treatment of the stated kind given by newspapers, etc. when reporting about a person or event: *The play had a good press* (=the newspapers said it was good) *but very few people went to see it.* **3** [C] a PRINTING PRESS: *Stop the presses! A piece of late news has come in.* | *When does the paper* **go to press?** (=start being printed) | *The new book is* **in (the) press.** (=being printed) —see also STOP PRESS **4** [C] (*usu. cap.*) a business

for printing (and sometimes also for selling) books, magazines, etc.: *the Clarendon Press* **5** [S] an act of pushing steadily against something small: *Give the button another press.* **6** [C] *infml* an act of making a garment smooth with a hot iron: *Could you give my trousers a quick press?* **7** [C] (*often in comb.*) an apparatus used for putting weight onto something: *She keeps her tennis racket in a press to stop it from getting out of shape.* | *a wine|garlic press* —see also TROUSER PRESS

press[3] *v* **press someone/something into service** to use someone or something in a time of urgent need, even though they may not be completely suitable

press a·gen·cy /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the office or business of a press agent

press a·gent /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person whose job is to keep an actor, musician, sportsman, etc., in favourable public notice by supplying photographs, interesting facts, etc., to newspapers

Press As·so·ci·a·tion /ˈ· ···ˌ··/ (*abbrev.* **PA**) an organization which provides news about Britain to newspapers and radio and television stations in other countries, and which informs industry and the government of the news as it happens

press bar·on /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* esp. *BrE infml sometimes derog* a person who owns and controls one or more important national newspapers. In Britain, Robert Maxwell was, and Rupert Murdoch is, sometimes described as a press baron. —compare DRUG BARON

press box /ˈ· ·/ *n* an (enclosed) space at some outdoor events, esp. sports events, that is kept for the use of newspaper reporters

Press Com·plaints Com·mis·sion /ˌ· ˈ· ·ˌ··/ [*the*] a British organization which is supposed to make sure that the British PRESS[1] (1) keeps high professional standards, and which deals with complaints about the press

press con·fer·ence /ˈ· ˌ···/ also **news conference**– *n* a meeting during which an important person gives a statement to news reporters or answers questions

press corps /ˈ· ·/ *n* **press corps** a group of news reporters from different newspapers who gather for a NEWS CONFERENCE, where something important is happening, or where an important statement will be made

Press Coun·cil /ˈ· ˌ··/ [*the*] a British organization which dealt with complaints about the PRESS[1] (1). It was replaced in 1991 by the Press Complaints Commission.

press cut·ting /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a CUTTING[1] (2)

pressed /prest/ *adj* **1** [F+**for**] not having enough: *I'm* **pressed for time** *this morning so it will have to wait until this afternoon.* **2** (of food) given a firm shape by being packed into a container so as to be easily cut for eating cold: *pressed duck*

press gal·le·ry /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* (esp. in the British parliament) a space with seats above or at the back of the main level of a hall, kept for the use of news reporters

press·gang[1] /ˈpresgæŋ/ *n* (in former times, esp. in the 18th century) a group of sailors employed to take men away by force and make them join the navy

pressgang[2] *v* [T (**into**)] *infml* (esp. of a group) to force (someone) to do something unwillingly: *I was pressganged into playing in the charity cricket match.*

press·ing[1] /ˈpresɪŋ/ *adj* **1** that must have attention, action, etc., now; urgent: *Pressing business matters prevented him from taking a holiday.* **2** asking for something strongly, in a way that is hard to refuse; INSISTENT: *a pressing invitation* —~**ly** *adv*

pressing[2] *n* **1** an act of pressing: *olive oil from the first cold pressing* **2** any of the copies of a GRAMOPHONE record made at any one time

press·man /ˈpresmæn/ *n* **-men** /men/ *BrE infml* a newspaper reporter

press of·fice /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an office of an organization, esp. a government department, from which information about the organization's activities is given to the press, often in the form of a **press release** (=a written description of a news story designed to encourage newspapers to write about it) —**press officer** *n*

press re·lease /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* a prepared statement given out to news services and newspapers

press sec·re·ta·ry /ˈ· ˌ····/ *n* a secretary to an important person or organization who gives news about them to newspapers

press-stud /ˈ· ·/ *BrE*, also **popper** *infml, esp. BrE* ‖ **snap fastener** *AmE*– *n* a small metal fastener for a garment, in which one part is pressed into a hollow in another – see picture at FASTENER

press-up /ˈ· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ **push-up** *esp. AmE*– *n* a form of exercise in which someone lies face down on the ground, keeping their back straight, and pushes their body up with their arms: *She does twenty press-ups every morning.*

pres·sure[1] /ˈpreʃəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] the action of putting force or weight onto something: *The pressure of the water turns this wheel, and this is used to make electric power.* **2** [C;U] the strength of this force: *These gas containers will burst at high pressures.* | *Low (atmospheric) pressure often brings rain.* | *a pressure of ten pounds to the square inch* | *a pressure gauge* **3** [U] forceful influence; strong persuasion: *He only agreed to do it under pressure from his parents.* [+*to-v*] *We're trying to* **put pressure on/bring pressure to bear on** *the government to change the law.* | *The government is coming under increasing pressure to change the law.* | *He only agreed to leave the country* **under pressure.** (=after being forcefully persuaded to do so) **4** [C;U] conditions in one's work, one's style of living, etc. that cause anxiety and difficulty: *I'd like to help out, but I really haven't got time*—**pressure of work,** *you know!* | *the pressures of modern life* | *He works best* **under pressure.** —see also BLOOD PRESSURE, HIGH-PRESSURE

pressure[2] *v* [T (**into**)] *esp. AmE for* PRESSURIZE (1)

pressure cook·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a tightly covered metal cooking pot in which food can be cooked very quickly by the pressure of hot steam —see picture at KITCHEN

pressure group /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of people that actively tries to influence public opinion and government action —compare INTEREST GROUP

pressure point /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a point on the human body where a blood-carrying tube (ARTERY) runs near a bone, so that it can be closed off by pressing on it, for example to stop blood loss **2** a point used in ACUPRESSURE

pres·sur·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpreʃəraɪz/ *v* [T] **1** [(**into**)] *esp. BrE* ‖ **pressure** *esp. AmE*– to (try to) make (someone) do something by using strong or unfair influence: *The government have pressurized the farmers into producing more milk.* [+*obj+to-v*] *I'm being pressurized to make a statement.* **2** to control the air pressure inside (something) so that it does not become much lower than the pressure on Earth: *an aircraft's pressurized cabin* —**-ization** /ˌpreʃəraɪˈzeɪʃən‖-rəˈzeɪ-/ *n* [U]

Pres·tel /ˈprestel/ *tdmk* a service provided by British Telecom which carries information (e.g. weather, news, sports results) on television to people who have paid for this service. The information is received by calling it up on the telephone.

pres·ti·di·gi·ta·tion /ˌprestɨˌdɪdʒɨˈteɪʃən/ *n* [U] *humor or fml* the performing of tricks by quick clever use of the hands; conjuring (CONJURE)

pres·tige[1] /preˈstiːʒ/ *n* [U] general respect or admiration felt for someone or something because they have (or are connected with) high quality, social influence, success, etc.: *The old universities of Oxford and Cambridge still have a lot of prestige.* | *the prestige conferred in many cultures by having a professional job, such as that of a doctor or lawyer*

prestige[2] *adj* [A] *usu. apprec or derog* causing admiration because of being an outward sign of wealth or success: *Some people say the country should spend its money on really important things, not on prestige developments like new airports.* | *a prestige car* (=big, expensive, and important-looking)

pres·ti·gious /preˈstɪdʒəs‖-ˈstiː-, -ˈstɪ-/ *adj usu. apprec* having or bringing prestige: *a very prestigious address in the best part of town*

pres·to /ˈprestəʊ/ *n, adj, adv* **-tos** (a piece of music) played very quickly —see also HEY PRESTO

Pres·ton /ˈprestən/ a town in NW England, where the local government for Lancashire is based

pre·stressed /ˌpriːˈstrest◂/ *adj* (of CONCRETE[2]) strengthened by having stretched wires put inside

Prest·wick /ˈprestwɪk/ a town in SW Scotland

pre·su·ma·bly /prɪˈzjuːməbli‖-ˈzuː-/ *adv* it may reasonably

be supposed that; probably: *If you've already eaten, you presumably won't want dinner.* | *Presumably you've read this notice.* (=I suppose/hope that you have)

pre·sume /prɪ'zju:m‖-'zu:m/ *v* **1** [T] to take (something) as true or as a fact without direct proof but with some feeling of being certain; suppose: [+(*that*)] *John didn't say when he'd return, but I presume (that) he'll be back for dinner.* | *"Will he be back for dinner?" "I presume so."* [+*obj*+*to-v*] (*fml*) *From the way they talked I presumed them to be married.* **2** [T] to accept as true until proved untrue, esp. in a matter of law, justice, etc.: *We must presume innocence until we have evidence of guilt.* [+(*that*)] *We must presume they are innocent.* [+*obj*+*adj*] *The soldier was* **missing, presumed dead.** [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Anyone not replying within 28 days is presumed to have given up his or her claim.* **3** [I *usu. in questions and negatives*] *fml* to behave without enough respect or politeness; dare to do something which one has no right to do: *I don't wish to presume, sir, but don't you think you need a larger size?* [+*to-v*] *Are you presuming to tell me how to drive my car?* **4** [T] *fml* to be a reasonable sign or proof of; PRESUPPOSE: *An answer, by its nature, presumes a question.* **5 Dr Livingstone, I presume** a phrase believed to have been used by Sir Henry Stanley when he found Dr Livingstone, an EXPLORER, who had been lost in Africa. The phrase is now sometimes used humorously. —see also Dr LIVINGSTONE

presume on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to (try to) take unfair advantage of (someone's kindness or connection with oneself): *I feel it would be presuming on our rather brief friendship to ask him to lend me that much money.*

pre·sump·tion /prɪ'zʌmpʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] **a** an act of supposing **b** *law* an act of supposing that is reasonable and sensible: *the presumption of innocence* **2** [U] *fml derog* disrespectful behaviour that shows too high an opinion of oneself

pre·sump·tive /prɪ'zʌmptɪv/ *adj* [A] *fml, esp. law* based on a reasonable belief; probable: *presumptive proof* —see also HEIR PRESUMPTIVE — **~ly** *adv*

pre·sump·tu·ous /prɪ'zʌmptʃuəs/ *adj derog* showing disrespect towards others as a result of having too high an opinion of oneself — **~ly** *adv*

pre·sup·pose /ˌpri:sə'pəʊz/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *fml* **1** to suppose or take to be true in advance and without proof; ASSUME: [+*that*] *All these plans presuppose that the bank will be willing to lend us the money.* **2** to show that (that stated thing) must exist: *A child presupposes a mother.*

pre·sup·po·si·tion /ˌpri:sʌpə'zɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an example of) supposing that something is true without proof: [+*that*] *Your judgment of the case is based on the presupposition that the witness is telling the truth.*

pre·tence ‖ also **-tense** *AmE* /prɪ'tens‖'pri:tens/ *n* **1** [S;U] a false appearance intended either to deceive people or as a game: *He didn't like the food, but as he was a guest he made a pretence of eating* (=pretended to eat) *some of it.* | *She isn't really ill; it's only pretence.* [+*that*] *How much longer are you going to keep up this pretence that you're ill?* **2** [U+**to**;*usu. in questions and negatives*] a claim to possess some desirable quality: *a simple man, with little pretence to education* —see also FALSE PRETENCES

pre·tend[1] /prɪ'tend/ *v* **1** [I;T] to give an appearance of (something that is not true), with the intention of deceiving: *She wasn't really crying; she was only pretending.* | *He often pretends deafness when you ask him an awkward question!* [+(*that*)/*to-v*] *She pretended she didn't know me/pretended not to know me when we met in the street.* **2** [I;T ~~*obj*~~] (usu. of a child) to imagine as a game: [+(*that*)/*to-v*] *Let's pretend we're on the moon/pretend to be on the moon.* **3** [T+*to-v*; ~~*obj*~~; *usu. in questions and negatives*] to make a claim, esp. one that cannot be supported: *I don't pretend to understand these technical terms.* (=I admit that I do not understand them)

pretend to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to claim to possess: *I don't pretend to much expertise in these matters, but ...*

pretend[2] *adj infml* (used esp. by or to children) imagined; imaginary: *That's my pretend friend.* | *a pretend monster*

pre·tend·ed /prɪ'tendɨd/ *adj often derog* false or unreal in spite of seeming true or real; insincere: *pretended sympathy*

pre·tend·er /prɪ'tendəʳ/ *n* [(**to**)] a person who makes a claim (which is doubtful or not proved) to some high position, such as to be the rightful king

pre·ten·sion /prɪ'tenʃən/ *n* **1** [C (**to**) *often pl.*] a claim to possess skill, qualities, etc.: *I make no pretensions to skill as an artist, but I enjoy painting.* | (fig.) *a house of modest pretensions* (=not very large and expensive-looking) **2** [U] *fml* pretentiousness

pre·ten·tious /prɪ'tenʃəs/ *adj* claiming (in an unpleasant way) to have importance, artistic value, or social rank that one does not really possess: *one of those pretentious films that claim to be "art"* —opposite **unpretentious** — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

pret·er·ite, -it /'pretərɨt/ *n, adj* [*the*] *tech* (a tense or verb form) that expresses a past action or condition: *"Sang" is the preterite (form) of "sing".*

pre·ter·nat·u·ral /ˌpri:tə'nætʃərəl◂‖-tər-/ *adj fml* **1** beyond what is usual: *a warrior of preternatural strength* **2** strange; beyond what is natural or can be explained naturally: *In former times people believed that thunder and lightning were signs of preternatural forces.* — **~ly** *adv* : *preternaturally strong*

pre·text /'pri:tekst/ *n* [(**of, for**)] a reason given for an action in order to hide the real intention; excuse: *He came to the house* **under/on the pretext** *of seeing Mr Jackson, but he really wanted to see Jackson's daughter.* | *The riots were used by the government as a pretext for banning all political activity.* —see EXCUSE[2] (USAGE)

Pre·to·ri·a /prɪ'tɔ:riə/ a city and the ADMINISTRATIVE capital of South Africa

pret·ti·fy /'prɪtɪfaɪ/ *v* [T] *usu. derog* to make pretty without serious intention or effect

pret·ty[1] /'prɪti/ *adj* **1** *apprec* (esp. of a woman, a child, or a small thing) pleasing to look at, listen to, etc.; charming and attractive without being very beautiful or important-looking: *She looks much prettier with long hair than with short hair.* | *a pretty dress* | *What a pretty little garden!* —see BEAUTIFUL (USAGE) **2** [A] *derog* (of a young man) graceful and/or charming but rather EFFEMINATE **3** [A] *derog, rather old-fash* not nice; displeasing: *It's a pretty state of affairs when I can't afford the price of a pint of beer any more!* — **-tily** *adv* — **-tiness** *n* [U]

pretty[2] *adv infml* **1** quite, though not completely; rather: *It's pretty cold today.* | *I'm pretty sure he'll say yes.* **2** very: *This work of yours is a pretty poor effort. You'd better do it again.* **3 pretty much** also **pretty well, pretty nearly**— very nearly; almost: *"How is she feeling today?" "Pretty much the same as yesterday."* | *It's pretty well impossible to travel over these mountains in winter.* —see also **be sitting pretty** (SIT (12))

pretty pen·ny /ˌ·· '··/ *n* [S] *infml* a rather large amount of money: *That car cost a pretty penny, I can tell you!*

pretty-pret·ty /'·· ˌ··/ *adj infml derog, esp. BrE* pretty in a silly or weak way

pret·zel /'pretsəl/ *n* **1** a hard salty BISCUIT or CRACKER baked in the shape of a stick or a loose knot, very popular in the US: *beer and pretzels* **2** *AmE* also **soft pretzel**— a salty bread baked in the shape of a knot and eaten while warm. It is often bought at a sports event or from a person selling them on the street.

pre·vail /prɪ'veɪl/ *v* [I] *fml* **1** [(**among, in**)] to (continue to) exist or be widespread: *A belief in magic still prevails among some tribes.* **2** [(**against, over**)] to gain control or victory; win a fight: *Justice has prevailed; the guilty man has becn punished.*

prevail upon/on sbdy. *phr v* [T+*obj*+*to-v*] *fml* to persuade: *I'm late for my train — could I prevail upon you to drive me to the station?*

pre·vail·ing /prɪ'veɪlɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** (of a wind) that blows over an area most of the time: *The prevailing winds here are from the west.* **2** *fml* existing or most widely accepted at a particular time or in a particular place; CURRENT: *the prevailing fashion* | *the prevailing economic climate*

prev·a·lent /'prevələnt/ *adj* [(**among, in**)] *fml* existing commonly, generally, or widely in a particular place or at a particular time: *Eye diseases are prevalent in some tropical countries.* — **~ly** *adv* — **-lence** *n* [U]

pre·var·i·cate /prɪ'værɨkeɪt/ *v* [I] *fml* **1** to try to hide the truth by not answering questions clearly or completely truthfully **2** *euph* to tell lies — **-cator** *n* — **-cation** /prɪˌværɨ'keɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

pre·vent /prɪ'vent/ *v* [T (**from**)] to stop (something) happening or stop (someone) doing something: *These rules are intended to prevent accidents.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *What can we do to prevent this disease spreading? | Unless we get more funding we'll be prevented from finishing our experimental programme.* —~**able** *adj* : *preventable cancer*

pre·ven·tion /prɪ'venʃən/ [U] the act of preventing: *the prevention of crime|disease*

Prevention of Ter·ror·is·m Act /·ˌ·· · ˈ···· ˌ·/ [*the*] a British law passed in 1989 giving the army, police, and government more powers to deal with TERRORISTS, such as being able to prevent someone who is thought to be or have been involved in terrorist activities from entering the country. It is used mainly against people who are thought to be in the IRA.

pre·ven·tive /prɪ'ventɪv/ also **pre·ven·ta·tive** /-tətɪv/— *n, adj* (something) that helps to prevent something undesirable: *The government is taking* **preventative measures** *to safeguard law and order.* —~**ly** *adv*

preventive de·ten·tion /·ˌ·· ·'··/ *n* [U] *BrE tech* imprisonment for a long time for habitual criminals over 30 years old

preventive medi·cine /·ˌ·· ˈ·· ‖ ·ˌ·· ˈ··· *n* [U] medicine that helps prevent illness, e.g. VACCINATION. This expression is also used to describe measures taken to improve public health (e.g. providing pure water), and to educate people about personal health (e.g. eating habits, physical exercise).

pre·view[1] /'priːvjuː/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a private showing of paintings, a cinema film, etc., before they are shown to the general public **2** a short description of something that will soon happen, esp. a film or television show soon to be shown: *I don't want to see it — I read the previews and they weren't very enthusiastic. | This book gives us a preview of life in the 25th century.* —see also SNEAK PREVIEW **3** *AmE* short pieces from a film or television programme which are shown sometime before it as an ADVERTISEMENT —see TRAILER

preview[2] *v* [T] to give a preview of (a play, film, etc.)

Prev·in /'prevɨn/, **An·dré** /'ɒndreɪ‖'ɑːn-/ (1929–) an American CONDUCTOR (=a person who directs the playing of a group of musicians), COMPOSER, and piano player, who, through his television appearances, brought CLASSICAL music to a wider public. He was made Conductor LAUREATE of the London Symphony Orchestra in 1992.

pre·vi·ous /'priːviəs/ *adj* **1** [A] happening or existing before the one mentioned: *On Sunday he denied all knowledge of it, but on the previous day* (=Saturday) *he'd admitted to me that he knew all about it. | Have you had any previous experience of this kind of work? | on a previous occasion* —see AGO (USAGE), LAST (USAGE) **2** [F] *now rare* acting too soon; PREMATURE: *He was a little previous in thanking her for something she had not yet given him.* **3 previous to** *fml* before; PRIOR to: *Women are now in a majority on the committee, although previous to 1976 there were no women members at all.* —~**ly** *adv* : *This record was previously held by Sebastian Coe.*

pre·vi·sion /ˌpriː'vɪʒən/ *n* [C;U (**of**)] *fml* (a case of) knowledge of something before it happens

pre-war /ˌpriː'wɔːr◂/ *adj, adv* (happening or existing) before a war, esp. the First or Second World War: *conditions in pre-war Europe* —compare POSTWAR

prey[1] /preɪ/ *n* [U] **1** an animal that is hunted and eaten by another animal: *lions pursuing their prey* | (fig.) *Gullible people like him are* **easy prey for/to** *clever salesmen.* (=can easily be deceived by them) | (fig., rather *fml*) *Left on her own, she* **was/fell prey to** (=was troubled by) *all sorts of strange fears.* **2** habit or way of life based on killing and eating other animals: *The tiger is a* **beast of prey.** | *The eagle is a* **bird of prey.**

prey[2] *v*

prey on/upon sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] **1** (of an animal) to hunt and eat as prey: *Cats prey on birds and mice.* **2** (of unhappiness, troubles, etc.) to trouble greatly: *This problem has been preying on my mind all day.* **3** *derog* (of a person) to live by getting money from (someone who is weak, trusting, helpless, etc.) by influence, deceit, etc.: *He's very charming and preys on rich widows.*

prez·zie /'prezi/ *n infml* a present

price[1] /praɪs/ *n* **1** an amount of money for which a thing is offered, sold, or bought: *What price did you pay for the house? | What is the price of this suit? | Eggs are selling at a high price. | House prices are rising|going up. | big price reductions* | (fig.) *Isn't bad health a high price to pay for the pleasure you get from smoking?* | (fig.) *Good friendship is above|beyond|without price.* (=cannot be bought) *You can't* **put a price** *on it.* (=because it is too valuable) | (fig.) *Everyone* **has their price.** (=will accept a BRIBE if it is large enough) **2** (in risking money, e.g. on a horse in a race) the difference in amount between the money risked and the sum of the money one will get if one wins; ODDS: *"What price are you offering on 'Lucky Shot'?" "Seven to four."* —see also STARTING PRICE **3 a price on someone's head** a reward for catching or killing someone: *The escaped prisoner fled across the border because he knew there was a price on his head.* **4 at a price** for a lot of money: *You can buy excellent wine here — at a price!* **5 not at 'any price** not on any condition, even if favourable: *I wouldn't travel by air at any price.* —see also ASKING PRICE, CLOSING PRICE, COST PRICE, LIST PRICE, MARKET PRICE; see COST (USAGE)

price[2] *v* [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv|prep; often pass.*] to fix the price of (something for sale): *The new car is priced very competitively.* (=at a price that makes people willing to buy it) *| high-priced goods | This hat is priced at £27, madam.* **2** *infml* to find out the price of: *I have been pricing radios in the London shops.* **3 price out of the market** to make the price of (oneself or one's goods) so high that people are unwilling to pay: *You'll price yourself out of the market if you ask that much.*

Price, Le·on·tyne /li'ɒntiːn, 'liːən-‖li'ɑːn-/ (1927–) an American OPERA singer

price-fix·ing /'· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** the setting of prices by the government **2** an agreement between two or more producers, sellers, etc. to fix the price of a product at a level favourable to them. In many countries, including Britain and the US, this is illegal.

price in·dex /'· ˌ··/ *n* a system of numbers by which prices can be compared to a former level —see also RETAIL PRICE INDEX

price·less /'praɪsləs/ *adj* **1** of such a high value that it cannot be calculated: *a priceless collection of paintings | Good health is priceless.* —see VALUABLE (USAGE) **2** *infml* very funny or laughably foolish

prices and in·comes pol·i·cy /ˌ·· · ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a course of action taken by a government and intended to prevent prices and incomes increasing, in order to stop or limit INFLATION

price sup·port /'· ·ˌ·/ *n* the practice of keeping prices of a product or food at a fixed level, even though the price should go down or up, by giving the producer government money or having the government buy the product

price tag /'· ·/ *n* **1** a small ticket put onto an article, showing its price **2** infml (esp. in newspapers) a fixed or stated price: *The government was asked to* **put a price tag on** *its new building plans.* (=say what they would cost)

price war /'· ˌ·/ *n* a period during which companies reduce the prices of their products or services to win a larger share of the market or get rid of competition: *Oil companies are entering a price war over the cost of unleaded fuel.*

Price Wa·ter·house /ˌpraɪs 'wɔːtəhaʊs‖-'wɔːtər-, -'wɑː-/ an international firm of ACCOUNTANTS and MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

pric·ey, pricy /'praɪsi/ *adj* **pricier, priciest** *infml derog, esp. BrE* expensive: *These new cars are a bit pricey. | That shop's too pricey for me.* —**-iness** *n* [U]

prick[1] /prɪk/ *n* **1** a small sharp pain: *She felt a prick when the needle went into her finger.* | (fig.) *the pricks of conscience* (=uncomfortable thoughts because one knows one has done something wrong) **2** a small mark or hole made by pricking **3** a prickle **4** *taboo* the male sex organ; PENIS **5** *taboo derog sl* a stupid or very unpleasant man: *You stupid prick!* —see also PINPRICK, **kick against the pricks** (KICK[1] (6))

prick[2] *v* **1** [T (**with, on**)] to make a very small hole in (one's) skin or surface of (something) with a sharp-pointed object: *When I was pruning the roses I pricked myself|my finger on a thorn.* **2** [I;T] to (cause to) feel a sensation of light sharp pain on the skin: *The pepper in the food pricked the back of his throat.* | (fig.) *Her conscience pricked her.* **3 prick up its ears** (of an animal) to raise

the ears so as to listen attentively **4 prick up one's ears** (of a person) to listen carefully; be ready to hear information: *He pricked up his ears when they began to talk about him.*

prick sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to place (a young plant) in a hole specially made in the earth

prick·le[1] /ˈprɪkəl/ *n* **1** [C] any of a number of small, esp. long and thin, sharp-pointed growths on the skin of some plants or animals: *a hedgehog's prickles* —see picture at HEDGEHOG **2** [(*the*) S] a pricking sensation on the skin

prickle[2] *v* [I;T] to give or feel a pricking sensation: *This rough shirt prickles my skin.*

prick·ly /ˈprɪkli/ *adj* **1** covered with prickles: *prickly bushes* **2** that has or gives a pricking sensation: *prickly woollen underclothes* **3** *infml* difficult to deal with: *Nuclear defence policy is bound to be one of the prickliest issues at the party conference.* | *He's a prickly character.* (=easily made angry) —**-liness** *n* [U]

prickly heat /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] an uncomfortable hot PRICKLY (2) condition of the skin with painful red spots, common in tropical countries

prickly pear /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* (the roundish PRICKLY (1) eatable fruit of) a CACTUS with yellow flowers

pric·y /ˈpraɪsi/ *adj* PRICEY

pride[1] /praɪd/ *n* **1** [S;U (**in**)] (a feeling of) satisfaction or pleasure in what one can do or has done, or in someone or something connected with oneself: *They* **take** *great* **pride in** *their daughter, who is now a famous scientist.* **2** [U] reasonable self-respect; proper high opinion of oneself: *I think you* **hurt his pride** *by laughing at the way he speaks English.* **3** [U] *derog* too high an opinion of oneself because of one's position, wealth, abilities, etc. Pride is one of the Seven Deadly Sins according to the Christian religion: *Pride was his downfall.* (=caused his ruin) —see also SEVEN DEADLY SINS **4** [S (**of**)] the most valuable person or thing: *This fine picture is the pride of my collection.* | *My garden is my* **pride and joy.** (=something that I think has great value) **5** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group (of lions) **6 pride goes before a fall** *saying* someone who behaves too proudly will soon suffer a defeat or misfortune

pride[2] *v* [T] **pride oneself on** to feel satisfied with oneself about: *She prided herself on her ability to speak eight languages/on knowing eight languages.*

Pride and Prej·u·dice /ˌ· · ˈ···/ a book by Jane Austen in which the most important characters are the Bennett family and Mr Darcy

pride of place /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U (**in**)] *esp. BrE* the highest or best position: *Amongst all our playwrights, Shakespeare has/takes pride of place.* (=is considered the best) | *A poster of Elvis Presley had pride of place in her room.*

priest /priːst/ *n* **1** (in the Christian church, and esp. in the Roman Catholic Church) a specially trained person, usu. a man, who performs various religious duties and ceremonies for a group of worshippers **2** also **priest·ess** /ˈpriːstes/*fem.*— a specially-trained person with religious duties and responsibilities in certain non-Christian religions —see also HIGH PRIEST

priest·hood /ˈpriːsthʊd/ *n* [(*the*) U] **1** the office or position of a priest: *He entered the priesthood.* (=became a priest) **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] all priests, usu. of a particular religion or country

Priest·ley /ˈpriːstli/, **J B** (1894–1984) a British writer and broadcaster who took a humorous view of English life in his NOVELS, e.g. *The Good Companions*. His many plays include *Dangerous Corner*. He also wrote about literature, travel, and society and was noted for his radio talks during the Second World War.

priest·ly /ˈpriːstli/ *adj fml* of a priest: *his priestly duties*

prig /prɪg/ *n derog* someone who is very careful about obeying rules of correct behaviour and therefore thinks him- or herself morally better than other people — ~**gish** *adj* — ~**gishness** *n* [U]

prim /prɪm/ *adj* **-mm-** **1** *usu. derog* (of a person) very formal or exact in behaviour, and easily shocked by anything rude: *She's much too* **prim and proper** *to enjoy such a rude joke.* **2** neat: *prim little blouses* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

Pri·ma /ˈpriːmə/ a monthly women's magazine, which has articles on fashion, cookery, etc.

pri·ma bal·le·ri·na /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* the main woman dancer in a BALLET company

pri·ma·cy /ˈpraɪməsi/ *n* [U] **1** [(**of, over**)] *fml* the state, quality, or position of being first in position, importance, etc.: *We should insist on the primacy of practical skill over theoretical knowledge.* **2** the position of a PRIMATE[2]

prima don·na /ˌpriːmə ˈdɒnə‖-ˈdɑːnə/ *n* **1** the main woman singer in an OPERA company **2** *derog* an excitable self-important person who is always changing her or his mind and expects everyone to do as she or he wishes: *He's a bit of a prima donna, which makes him hard to work with.*

pri·mae·val /praɪˈmiːvəl/ *adj esp. BrE for* PRIMEVAL

pri·ma fa·cie /ˌpraɪmə ˈfeɪʃi‖-ʃə/ *adj, adv* [A *no comp.*] *Lat, esp. law* based on what seems to be true, even though it may be disproved later: *Unless there is a prima facie case against him, the trial cannot proceed.*

pri·mal /ˈpraɪməl/ *adj fml* **1** [A] (as if) belonging to the earliest time in the world; original: *man's primal innocence* —compare PRIMORDIAL **2** PRIMARY (1): *a primal need*

primal scream ther·a·py /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ···/ also **primal therapy** /ˈ·· ˌ···/, **scream therapy**— *n* [S] a form of treatment for mental disorders in which it is thought that if a person can be taken back to a much earlier time of his or her life and re-experience very difficult emotions and SCREAM about them, they will be able to manage better in their lives. People who do not take this seriously sometimes make jokes about it.

pri·ma·ri·ly /ˈpraɪmərəli‖praɪˈmerəli/ *adv fml* mainly; chiefly: *Ten years ago it was primarily a fishing village, but now it's a thriving tourist centre.*

pri·ma·ry[1] /ˈpraɪməri‖-meri/ *adj* **1** chief; main; PRINCIPAL: *The primary purpose of his visit is to improve trading relations.* | *a matter of primary importance* **2** [A] also **elementary** *AmE* (of education, a teacher, etc.) for children between 5 and 11 years old —compare SECONDARY (1) **3** [A] earliest in time or order of development: *In the primary stages of their civilization, they had no metal tools.*

primary[2] *n* (esp. in the US) an election at which the members of a political party in a particular area vote for the person that they would like to see as their party's CANDIDATE for a political office

primary col·our /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* any of three colours (red, yellow, and blue) from which all other colours can be made by mixing

primary health care /ˌ··· ˈ· ·/ also **primary med·i·cal care** /ˌ··· ˈ··· ·/— *n* [U] the first kind of official medical care which a person receives. In Britain and the US, this is usu. care from the local or family doctor (GP) or the CASUALTY department of a hospital: *Training programmes for doctors ensure that advice about a healthy diet and lifestyle will be available from primary health care.*

primary school /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* **1** *BrE* a school for children between 5 and 11 years old in England and Wales, often divided into an INFANT SCHOOL (5–7) and a JUNIOR SCHOOL (7–11) —compare SECONDARY SCHOOL and see also extra information on page 408 **2** *AmE* an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

primary stress /ˌ··· ˈ·/ also **primary ac·cent** /ˌ··· ˈ··/— *n* [C;U] *tech* the strongest force (STRESS) given in speech to part of a compound or long word, and shown in this dictionary by the mark ˈ: *In the word "primary", the primary stress falls on the first syllable ("pri-").*

pri·mate[1] /ˈpraɪmeɪt/ *n* a member of the most highly developed group of MAMMALS, which includes human beings, monkeys, and related animals

pri·mate[2] /ˈpraɪmɪt/ *n* (*often cap.*) a priest with the highest office in esp. the Church of England, e.g. the Archbishop of Canterbury is called the **Primate of All England**

prime[1] /praɪm/ *n* **1** [(*the*) S] the state or time of someone's or something's greatest perfection, strength, or activity: *He was about 40 years old, and* **in the prime of life.** | *She is still good-looking, but she's* **past her prime.** | *Many young soldiers have been* **cut off in their prime.** (=killed in battle while still young) **2** [C] *tech* a PRIME NUMBER

prime[2] *adj* **1** [A] first in position or importance; chief: *A prime reason for our economic decline is lack of investment.* | *This is a matter of prime importance.* **2** [A] of the very best quality or kind: *This is a prime* (=very clear)

example of the waste I've been talking about. | *a succulent piece of prime beef* **3** *tech* being a prime number: *7 and 13 are prime, but 12 isn't.* **4** connected with a standard of meat in the US, set by the FDA: *a roast labelled prime beef*

prime[3] *v* [T] **1** to cover (a surface) with a first spreading of esp. paint, as a base for the main painting —see also PRIMER[1] (1) **2** [(**with**)] to instruct in advance, esp. in how to ask or answer difficult questions: *The witness at the trial had been carefully primed by defence lawyers.* **3** to put explosive powder into (a gun of the old-fashioned type) so that it can be fired —see also PRIMER[1] (2) **4** [(**with**)] to prepare (a machine) for working by filling it with water, oil, etc. **5 prime the pump** *infml* to encourage the growth of an inactive business or industry by putting money into it

prime cost /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the actual cost of producing an article, as opposed to money spent on selling it, on renting factories, etc. —compare OVERHEADS

prime me·rid·i·an /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ [*the*] the imaginary line drawn from north to south on the earth, which passes through Greenwich, England, and from which east and west are measured on a map in degrees

prime min·is·ter /ˌ· ˈ···◂/ also **P M** *infml*— *n* (*often caps.*) the chief minister and leader of the government in certain countries esp. those with a parliamentary system of government. In Britain, the prime minister is the leader of the political party which has the most members in the House of Commons and is an elected member of the House. If the prime minister loses support in the House of Commons, they are expected to RESIGN, as Margaret THATCHER did in 1990. —see also extra information on page 412 and see colour picture on page 950 — ~**ship** *n*

Prime Minister's ques·tion time /ˌ· ··· ˈ·· ·/ a certain period of time during each week (on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons) when the British Prime Minister must be in the House of Commons to answer questions from other members of that House. During Prime Minister's question time strong, often very noisy, disagreement is expressed between the Prime Minister and the Opposition, and it is often broadcast on radio and television. Some people disapprove of the way Members of Parliament shout and interrupt each other during this time, although it is probably not typical of the usual work of Parliament.

prime mov·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** *tech* a natural force, such as wind or moving water, which can be used directly or to produce a more useful form of power **2** [(**of, in**)] a person or thing that has great influence in the development of something important

prime num·ber /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **prime**— *n tech* a number that can be divided exactly only by itself and the number one: *23 is a prime number.*

prim·er[1] /ˈpraɪməʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] a paint or other substance for spreading over the bare surface of wood, metal, etc. before the main painting —see also PRIME[3] (1) **2** [C] a tube containing explosive, used to fire a gun, explode a bomb, etc. —see also PRIME[3] (3)

prim·er[2] /ˈpraɪməʳ‖ˈprɪmər/ *n old-fash* a simple beginner's book in a school subject

prime rate /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* the lowest rate of interest at which money can be borrowed at a particular time and place, offered by banks to certain borrowers: *US prime rates are edging downwards.* —compare BASE RATE, DISCOUNT RATE

prime rib /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **prime fore rib** /ˌ· ˈ· ·/, **fore rib**— *n* [U] an expensive piece of BEEF which is usu. roasted (ROAST[1])

prime time /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *esp. AmE* PEAK TIME

pri·me·val also **-mae-** *esp. BrE* /praɪˈmiːvəl/ *adj* **1** very ancient; having been in existence for a very long time: *primeval forests* **2** of the earliest period in the existence of something, such as the Earth, the universe, etc.: *Primeval clouds of gas formed themselves into stars.*

prim·i·tive[1] /ˈprɪmɪtɪv/ *adj* **1** [A] of the earliest stage of development, esp. of life or of human beings: *Primitive man made himself primitive tools from sharp stones and animal bones.* | *primitive art on the walls of caves* **2** simple; roughly made or done; not greatly developed or improved: *Small seashells were often used as a primitive kind of money.* **3** *derog* old-fashioned and inconvenient: *primitive living conditions, without electricity or running water* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

primitive[2] *n* **1** a painter, SCULPTOR, etc. of the time before the Renaissance: *an Italian primitive* **2** a modern painter who paints simple and rather flat-looking pictures

pri·mo·gen·i·ture /ˌpraɪməʊˈdʒenɪtʃəʳ/ *n* [U] *tech* the system according to which property owned by a father goes after his death to the eldest son

pri·mor·di·al /praɪˈmɔːdiəl‖-ɔːr-/ *adj fml* existing from or at the beginning (of time): *Scientists used to believe that all the stars developed from a primordial mass of gases.* — compare PRIMAL (1) — ~**ly** *adv*

primordial soup /·ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [S] *infml* the mixture of substances, gases, etc. thought to have existed before the BIG BANG (=the explosion that began the universe)

primp /prɪmp/ *v* [I;T] to do one's hair, put on MAKE-UP, dress carefully, etc., so that one looks nice (used esp. of women): *She's primping in front of the mirror upstairs.*

prim·rose /ˈprɪmrəʊz/ *n* **1** [C] (a flower of) a common wild plant that produces light yellow flowers in the spring **2** [U] also **primrose yel·low** /ˌ·· ˈ··/— a light yellow colour **3 primrose path** *lit* a way of life full of physical pleasure but damaging to the soul

prim·u·la /ˈprɪmjʊlə/ *n* a plant of the primrose family which is grown in gardens for its brightly coloured flowers

pri·mus /ˈpraɪməs/ also **primus stove** /ˈ·· ·/— *n tdmk* an oil-burning metal apparatus for cooking, heating water, etc., that can be easily carried about

prince /prɪns/ *n* **1** (*often cap.*) a son or other near male relation of a king or queen: *Prince Rupert* **2** (*often cap.*) a ruler of a usu. small country: *Prince Rainier of Monaco* | *In former times parts of India were ruled by princes.* **3** [(**among, of**) *usu. sing.*] *lit or pomp* a very great, successful, or powerful man of the stated kind: *the merchant princes of Venice*

Prince[1]**, The** a book by Machiavelli which discusses the importance of the state and how a ruler should use any means possible to preserve it —see also MACHIAVELLI

Prince[2] (1958—) an American singer and writer of popular music whose songs include *Dirty Minds*, and *Controversy*. Prince was one of the most successful popular music singers of the 1980s, though his songs were considered shocking by some people.

Prince Albert see Prince ALBERT

Prince Andrew see Prince ANDREW

Prince Charles see Prince CHARLES —see picture at ROYAL WEDDING

Prince Charm·ing /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n infml or humor* a man who as a lover fulfils the dreams of a young girl (from the story of Cinderella in which Prince Charming was the perfect answer to Cinderella's dreams) —see CINDERELLA and see colour picture on page 357

prince con·sort /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **princes consort** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ (*often caps.*) a special title sometimes given to the husband of a ruling queen, esp. to Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria of Britain —compare QUEEN CONSORT

prince·dom /ˈprɪnsdəm/ *n fml* a country ruled by a PRINCE (2); PRINCIPALITY

Prince Edward see Prince EDWARD

Prince Ed·ward Is·land /ˌ· ˈ·· ˌ··/ a PROVINCE in SE Canada that is an island in the Gulf of St Lawrence

Prince Henry see Prince HENRY

prince·ly /ˈprɪnsli/ *adj* **1** of a PRINCE (1,2): *the princely courts of Europe* **2** *fml apprec* fine; splendid; generous: *a princely gift* | *He offered us a* **princely sum** (=a lot of money) *for it.*

Prince of Dark·ness /ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] *poet* SATAN

Prince of Peace /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] *poet* CHRIST

Prince of Wales /ˌ· · ˈ·/ [*the*] a title given to the first son of a British king or queen. Prince Charles was given this title in a ceremony at Caernarvon Castle in 1969 —see also Prince CHARLES

Prince Philip see Prince PHILIP

Prince Re·gent /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] the son of George III of Britain who acted as king from 1811 to 1820 because his father was mad. This period in British history is known as the

Regency. The Prince Regent later became King George IV.

Princes in the Tow·er /ˌ·· · · ˈ··/ [*the* +P] the boy king Edward V and his brother Richard who were murdered in 1483 in the Tower of London

prin·cess /ˌprɪnˈses◂‖ˈprɪnsəs/ *n* (*often cap.*) **1** a daughter or other near female relation of a king or queen: *Princess Anne* **2** the wife of a PRINCE (1,2): *Princess Diana*

Princess and the Pea /ˌ·· · · ˈ·/, **The** a story by Hans Andersen in which any woman wishing to marry a particular prince must sleep on 20 MATTRESS*es* under which there is a PEA (=small hard round green vegetable). Only the real princess is so delicate that she feels the pea and cannot sleep.

Princess Anne see Princess ANNE

Princess Diana also **Princess Di** *infml*– see Princess DIANA

Princess Margaret see Princess MARGARET

Princess of Wales /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ [*the*] the wife of the Prince of Wales. Lady Diana Spencer became the Princess of Wales when she married Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, in 1981. –see also Princess DIANA

Princess Roy·al /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] a title given to the first daughter of a British king or queen. Princess Anne was given this title by her mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in 1987.

Princes Street /ˈ·· ·/ an important street in Edinburgh, Scotland, with many shops and banks

Prince·ton U·ni·ver·si·ty /ˌprɪnstən juːnˌɪˈvɜːsˌɪti‖-ɜːr-/ one of the oldest (1746) and most respected American universities. Princeton, in Princeton, New Jersey, is one of the Ivy League. –see also IVY LEAGUE

Prince William see Prince WILLIAM

prin·ci·pal[1] /ˈprɪnsˌɪpəl/ *adj* [A] *rather fml* highest in importance or position; chief; main: *The Nile is one of the principal rivers of Africa.* | *my principal source of income* | *Our principal problem was lack of time.* –see also PRINCIPALLY

principal[2] *n* **1** [C] (*often cap.*) the head of some universities, colleges, and schools **2** [S] *tech* an amount of money lent, put into a business, etc., and on which interest is paid **3** [C *often pl.*] a leading performer in a play, group of musicians, etc. **4** [C *often pl.*] *fml* a person for whom someone else acts as a representative, esp. in a piece of business: *I will have to consult my principals before I can give you an answer on that.*

principal boy /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n BrE* the chief male character in a PANTOMIME, usu. played by a young woman

prin·ci·pal·i·ty /ˌprɪnsˌɪˈpælˌɪti/ *n* a country ruled by a PRINCE (2), or from which he takes his title

Principality [*the*] *BrE pomp* Wales

prin·ci·pally /ˈprɪnsˌɪpli/ *adv* mainly; mostly: *The money is invested principally in government stock.*

principal parts /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [(*the*) P] *tech* the parts of a verb from which other parts are formed or can be guessed, in English usu. the INFINITIVE, past tense, present participle, and past participle: *The principal parts of the verb "sing" are "sing", "sang", "singing", and "sung".*

prin·ci·ple /ˈprɪnsˌɪpəl/ *n* **1** [C] a truth or belief that is accepted as a base for reasoning or action: *the principle of free speech* [+ *that*] *One of the principles of this dictionary is that definitions should be in simple language.* | *They agreed to the plan* **in principle** (=agreed to the general idea of it) *but there were several details they didn't like.* | *All these expensive new refinements are a waste of money. We must get back to* **first principles**. (=the most simple and important truths) **2** [C;U] a moral rule or set of ideas which guides behaviour: *It's not that I object to him using my car; it's the principle of the thing.* (=morally, he should not have borrowed it without asking) | *She resigned on a matter of principle.* | *I never buy South African goods* **on principle**. (=because I believe it would be morally wrong) [+*that*] *I usually follow the principle that it's better not to get involved in other people's quarrels.* –compare PRINCIPLES (2) **3** [U] *apprec* strong belief in, and practice of, honourable behaviour: *a man of principle* –compare PRINCIPLES (2) **4** [C] (a statement of) the way in which natural objects and forces work in the universe, esp. as it influences the workings of e.g. a machine: *Archimedes' principle* | *the principle of the internal combustion engine* | *A bicycle and a motorcycle are built on the same principle, though the force that moves them is different.*

prin·ci·pled /ˈprɪnsˌɪpəld/ *adj* **1** [A] (*usu. in comb.*) having or based upon PRINCIPLES (1,2): *I have no principled objection* (=no OBJECTION on principle) *to it.* **2** having PRINCIPLES (2): *a high-principled man* –see also UNPRINCIPLED

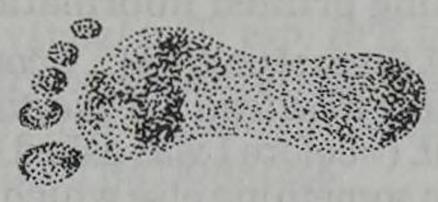
prin·ci·ples /ˈprɪnsˌɪpəlz/ *n* [P] **1** the general rules on which a skill, science, etc., is based, and which a beginner must understand: *This course teaches the principles of cooking.* **2** high personal standards of what is right and wrong, used as a guide to behaviour: *He has no principles; he'll do anything, however bad, as long as it's profitable* –compare PRINCIPLE (2,3)

Principles one of a group of British shops selling women's clothes

prints



fingerprint



footprint

print[1] /prɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] letters, words, or language in printed form: *I can't read small/fine print without my glasses.* | *I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it* **in print**. –see also FINE PRINT, SMALL PRINT **2** [C] (*often in comb.*) a mark made on a surface showing the shape, pattern, etc., of the thing pressed into or onto it: *a thumbprint* | *These deep marks in the wet ground look like the prints of a bicycle tyre.* –see also FOOTPRINT **3** [C *usu. pl.*] *infml for* FINGERPRINT: *The thief had left his prints on the handle.* **4** [C] (a copy of) a photograph printed after treatment of a photographic film: *Lend me the negatives and I'll order some extra prints.* **5** [C] a picture printed from a small sheet of metal or block of wood: *a set of rare old Chinese prints* **6** [C;U] (a) cloth, usu. cotton, on which a coloured pattern has been printed: *cheap print dresses* **7 in/out of print** (of a book) that can still/no longer be obtained from the PUBLISHER: *His books haven't been in print for twenty years.*

print[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to press (letters or pictures) onto (paper) by using shapes covered with ink or paint, or copy (letters or pictures) onto (paper) by using photographic methods: *The bottom line on this page hasn't been properly printed.* | *This machine can print 60 pages in a minute.* | *The photocopier isn't printing well.* **2** [I;T] to make (a book, magazine, etc.) by pressing or copying letters or pictures onto paper: *a book printed in Hong Kong* –compare PUBLISH **3** [T] to make or copy (a photograph) on paper sensitive to light, from a specially treated sheet of photographic film **4** [T] to record in a book, newspaper, etc.: *All today's newspapers have printed the minister's speech in full.* **5** [T] to decorate (cloth or wallpaper) with a coloured pattern pressed or rubbed on the surface: *printed fabrics* **6** [I;T] to write without joining the letters: *Please print your name and address clearly in capital letters.* **7** [T] to press (a mark) onto a soft surface: *The mark of a man's shoe was clearly printed in the mud.* **8 print money** *often derog* (esp. of a government) to produce a large supply of money so that people can afford to pay for goods whose cost has increased

print (sthg. ↔) **out** *phr v* [I;T] (of a computer) to produce (a printed record of information) –see also PRINTOUT

prin·ta·ble /ˈprɪntəbəl/ *adj* [*usu. negative*] fit to be printed; suitable for reading by anyone: *Her remarks were scarcely printable.* (=were very rude) –opposite **unprintable**

printed cir·cuit /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a set of connections between points in an electrical apparatus which uses not wire but a continuous thin line of metal laid down on a surface to CONDUCT (=carry) the electricity. Printed circuits are important for electrical equipment because they are small, easily made, and do not develop faults.

printed mat·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *tech* printed articles, such as official advertisements, that can be sent by post at a special cheap rate

printed word /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] magazines, newspapers, books, etc.: *The government was accused of putting a tax on the printed word.*

print·er /ˈprɪntəʳ/ *n* **1** a person employed in the trade of printing **2** a machine for making copies, esp. photographs **3** a machine which is connected to a computer and makes a printed record of computer information – compare PRINTING PRESS, and see picture at COMPUTER

print·ing /ˈprɪntɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the act or art of printing: *The invention of printing made it possible for many more people to learn to read.* | *a printing error* **2** [C] an act of printing a number of copies of a book; IMPRESSION: *This is the third printing of the book.* **3** [U] letters printed by hand

printing ink /ˈ·· ·/ also **printer's ink**– *n* [U] a quick-drying ink used in printing books, newspapers, etc. –compare PRINTER (2,3)

printing press /ˈ·· ·/ also **press, printing ma·chine** /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/– *n* a machine that prints books, newspapers, etc.

print·out /ˈprɪntˌaʊt/ *n* [C;U] a sheet or length of paper containing printed information produced by a computer

pri·or[1] /ˈpraɪəʳ/ *adj* [A] **1** coming or planned before: *I was unable to attend the meeting because of a prior engagement.* (=before I was asked to the meeting, I had arranged to do something else which would prevent me from going to the meeting) **2** more important; coming first in importance: *I stopped playing football because my work had a prior claim on my time.* **3 prior to** *fml* before: *All the arrangements should have been completed prior to our departure.*

prior[2] *n* **1** also **pri·or·ess** /ˈpraɪərɨs/*fem.*– the head of a priory **2** the priest next in rank below the head of an ABBEY (=a large religious house)

pri·o·ri·tize also **-tise** *BrE* /praɪˈɒrɨtaɪz‖-ˈɔːr-/ *v* [T] **1** to give (something) priority: *The public wants to see the fight against crime prioritized.* **2** to arrange (a number of things, problems, etc.) in the order in which they will be dealt with: *We need to prioritize all these jobs before we can start working on them.*

pri·or·i·ty /praɪˈɒrɨti‖-ˈɔːr-/ *n* **1** [U (**over**)] the state or right of coming before others in position or time: *The badly wounded take/have priority for medical attention over those only slightly hurt.* | *We have a priority booking scheme for members of our supporters' club.* (=they can get tickets before anyone else) **2** [C] something that needs attention, consideration, service, etc., before others: *The arranging of this business agreement is a* **top priority**. | *You must learn to get your priorities right.* (=deal with the most important things first) **3** [U] the right of a vehicle to go forward while others must wait: *Vehicles coming from the left have priority.* –compare PRECEDENCE

pri·o·ry /ˈpraɪəri/ *n* (*often cap.*) a Christian religious house or group of men (MONKS) or women (NUNS) living together, which is smaller and less important than an ABBEY –compare ABBEY

prise /praɪz/ *v* [T] *esp. BrE for* PRIZE[5]

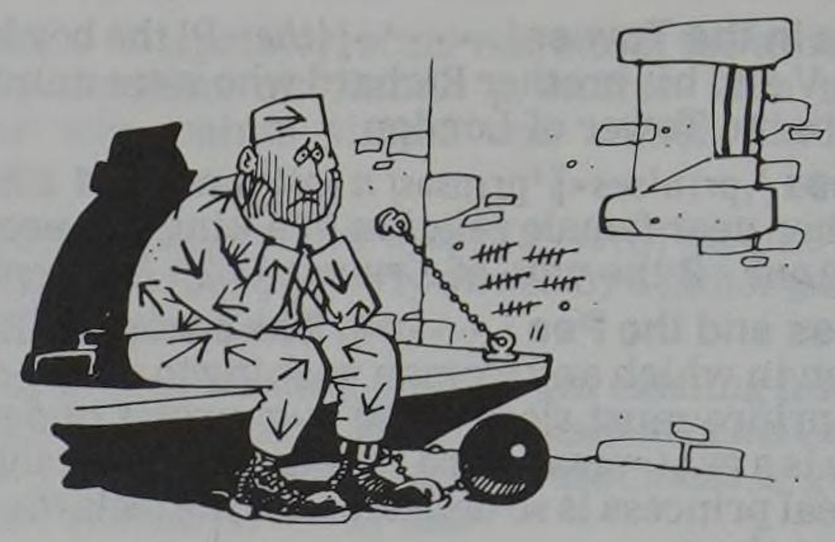
pris·m /ˈprɪzəm/ *n* **1** (in GEOMETRY) a solid figure with a flat base and parallel upright edges **2** a transparent three-sided block, usu. made of glass, that breaks up white light into different colours –see picture at SPECTRUM

pris·mat·ic /prɪzˈmætɪk/ *adj* **1** using a PRISM (2): *a prismatic compass* **2** (of a colour) very bright, clear, and varied

pris·on /ˈprɪzən/ *n* **1** [C;U] a large building (usu. owned by the state) where people are kept as a punishment after being found guilty of a crime or while waiting to be tried: *The thief was sent to prison for a year.* –see picture at CELL **2** [U] the state or condition of being kept in such a place; imprisonment: *Many people believe that prison isn't a cure for crime.* **3 stone walls do not a prison make** *quote* a phrase from a poem by Richard Lovelace, meaning that people can still feel free even if they are locked up

prison camp /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a guarded camp, usu. surrounded by a wire fence, for prisoners of war

pris·on·er /ˈprɪzənəʳ/ *n* **1** a person kept in a prison for a crime or while waiting to be tried: *The prisoners are allowed an hour's exercise every day.* | *"Prisoner at the bar* (=on trial), *how do you plead?"* **2** a person or animal (taken and) held with limited freedom of movement: *He was captured and* **taken prisoner** (=was made a prisoner) *by enemy soldiers.* | *The guerillas* **held/kept** *her*



prisoner *for three months.* | (fig.) *We are all prisoners of our past.*

prisoner of con·science /ˌ··· · ˈ··/ *n* a person who is put in prison because people in power do not like their political ideas

prisoner of war /ˌ··· · ˈ·/ also **POW** *infml*– *n* a member of the armed forces caught by the enemy during a war and kept as a prisoner, usu. until the war is over

Prisoner of Zen·da /ˌprɪzənər əv ˈzendə/, **The** a story by Anthony Hope about the adventures of an Englishman in the imaginary kingdom of Ruritania

prison vis·i·tor /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* (in Britain) a person who visits prisoners in order to help them with their difficulties or complaints, to keep them cheerful, etc.

pris·sy /ˈprɪsi/ *adj infml* annoyingly exact or proper in behaviour –**-sily** *adv* –**-siness** *n* [U]

pris·tine /ˈprɪstiːn/ *adj fml or lit* pure; undamaged; fresh and clean: *an old book still* **in pristine condition** | *the pristine whiteness of newly-fallen snow*

Pritch·ett /ˈprɪtʃɨt/, **V S** (1900–) a British writer known esp. for his short stories; his works include *Collected Stories* (1982) and *The Spanish Temper*, a travel book

prith·ee /ˈprɪði/ *interj old use* please

priv·a·cy /ˈprɪvəsi, ˈpraɪ-‖ˈpraɪ-/ *n* [U] **1** the (desirable) state of being away from other people, so that they cannot see or hear what one is doing, interest themselves in one's affairs, etc. In many western countries, this is usu. given particular value and people expect to have their privacy respected by others: *There's not much privacy in these flats because of the large windows and thin walls.* **2** secrecy; avoidance of being noticed or talked about publicly

pri·vate[1] /ˈpraɪvɨt/ *adj* **1** personal; secret; not (to be) shared with others: *It's wrong to read people's private letters without permission.* | *Don't tell anyone else what I told you; it's private.* **2** not intended for everyone, but for a particular person or chosen group; not public: *A well-known singer gave a private performance at the party.* | *The directors have their own private plane.* | *private land* **3** independent; not connected with government, public service, etc.: *Treatment in government hospitals is free, but if you go to a private hospital you must pay.* **4** unofficial; not connected with one's business or official position, or with one's public life: *The president is paying a private visit to Europe.* | *I don't like the way newspapers snoop into people's* **private lives**. **5** where other people are not present, or cannot see or hear one: *Is there some private corner where we can sit and talk by ourselves?* **6** (of a person) (liking to be) away from other people, on one's own *She's a very private person.* –compare PUBLIC[1] – **~ly** *adv* : *May I speak to you privately?* (=with no one else present) | *a privately printed book* (=not produced by a PUBLISHER)

private[2] *n* **1** (*written abbrev.* **Pte**) also **private soldier** *fml*– (*often cap.*) a soldier of the lowest rank **2 in private** secretly; not in the presence of other people – opposite **in public**

private bill /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a BILL[1] (2) that has an effect on a particular person or class, rather than the general public

private de·tec·tive /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ also **private eye** /ˌ·· ˈ·/*infml*, **private in·ves·ti·ga·tor** /ˌ·· ·ˈ····/, **gumshoe** *AmE sl*– *n* a person, not a policeman, who can be hired to do certain sorts of police work, such as following people and reporting on their actions

private ed·u·ca·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] education provided privately and not by the government. Quite a large number

of people in Britain are against private education because they think it strengthens class differences and makes people less equal, but some people in Britain and the US are willing to pay for private education because they feel it gives their children a better standard of education.

private en·ter·prise /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* **1** [U] the economic system in which private businesses operate in free competition with each other and the government does not control industry **2** [C] a business set up by an individual person or group of people

pri·va·teer /ˌpraɪvəˈtɪəʳ/ *n* (in former times) (the commander of, or a sailor on) an armed ship, owned and commanded by private people, that had government permission to attack and rob enemy ships carrying goods

Private Eye /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a British humorous magazine known for making fun of well-known people, including politicians and the royal family, and for uncovering secrets. It has often been taken to court by people who claim to have been damaged by things which have been written about them.

private in·come /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* money which one gets regularly, usu. enough to live on, not from working but because one has money in a business or bank, which earns INTEREST[1] (5)

private law /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] *law* the part of the law concerned with private people, property, and relationships – compare PUBLIC LAW (2)

private medi·cine /ˌ·· ˈ·· ‖ ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] *BrE* HEALTH CARE which is not provided by the government but paid for by private insurance or directly. Most people in Britain are proud of the National Health Service, mainly paid for by the government, which provides free health care for all. Some people feel that the growth of private medicine will reduce standards in the public service. The people who have private medicine often do so because they are treated more quickly.

private mem·ber /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a member of a parliament who is not a minister in the government

private member's bill /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a parliamentary law introduced by a member of parliament who is not a minister in the government. Most parliamentary laws are introduced by the government but some private member's bills have been important e.g. in introducing laws concerning DIVORCE and CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

private mon·ey /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] money used to pay for business plans, e.g. the Channel Tunnel, which comes from private people and not from the government

private parts /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **pri·vates** /ˈpraɪvəts/ *infml* – *n* [P] *euph* the outer sexual organs

private pa·tient /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n BrE* somebody who pays for HEALTH CARE rather than receiving free care provided by the government

private prac·tice /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] **1** the practice of a professional person which is independent of an organization; esp. the practice of doctors and DENTISTS in Britain outside the National Health Service (NHS). It is quite common for doctors and dentists in Britain to have private PATIENTS, who pay, in addition to their NHS patients. **2** *AmE* the practice of a professional person, esp. a doctor or lawyer, who works alone rather than with a group of others: *He set up a private practice when he got tired of the firm's politics.*

private school /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a school not supported by government money, where education must be paid for. In Britain a private school is often called a PREP SCHOOL or a PUBLIC SCHOOL. Only a fairly small number of school-age children attend private schools; most attend STATE SCHOOLS.

private sec·re·ta·ry /ˌ·· ˈ····/ *n* a secretary who is employed to help one person esp. with CONFIDENTIAL business matters

private sec·tor /ˌ·· ˈ··◂/ *n* [*the*] those industries and services in a country that are owned and run by private companies, not by the state: *pay increases in the private sector | private sector employees* –compare PUBLIC SECTOR

private sol·dier /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n fml for* PRIVATE[2] (1)

private treat·y /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n BrE law* **by private treaty** by private arrangement between buyer and seller and not in a public meeting: *For sale by private treaty, a 4-bedroomed country house overlooking the Wye Valley.*

private view /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **private view·ing** /ˌ·· ˈ··/– *n* an occasion on which certain people are able to see a public show of objects such as paintings before it opens to the general public

pri·va·tion /praɪˈveɪʃən/ *n fml* [C;U] (a) lack or loss of the necessary things or the main comforts of life: *Everyone suffered privations during the war, when there wasn't enough food in the country.*

pri·vat·i·zation /ˌpraɪvəˌtaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-tə-/ *n* [U] the selling (of a government-owned industry or organization) into private ownership. Margaret Thatcher was strongly in favour of this and during the 1980s, her Conservative government sold many state-run companies into private ownership e.g. British Telecom, British Gas, British Airways etc.

pri·vat·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpraɪvəˌtaɪz/ *v* [T] *esp. BrE* to sell (a government-owned industry or organization) into private ownership: *Cleaning services in state-run hospitals have been privatized.* –compare NATIONALIZE

priv·et /ˈprɪvəˌt/ *n* [U] a bush with leaves that stay green all the year, often grown in gardens to form a HEDGE

priv·i·lege /ˈprɪvəˌlɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C] a special advantage limited to a particular person or group: *He had his privileges withdrawn as a punishment. | Education is a privilege, not a right, in many countries.* –compare PREROGATIVE **2** [U] *often derog* advantage possessed by a person or group because of their wealth, social rank, etc.: *The British public schools are bastions of privilege.* **3** [S] a special favour; advantage that gives one great pleasure: *He's a fine musician; it's a privilege to hear him play.* **4** [C;U] (a) right to do or say things without risk of punishment, esp. in a parliament: *A member of parliament mustn't hit a fellow member; that would be* **a breach of privilege.** (=a breaking of the rules about what a member can do or say)

priv·i·leged /ˈprɪvəˌlɪdʒd/ *adj* **1** having a special favour or honour: [F+*to-v*] *We are privileged tonight to have as our main speaker the Foreign Minister of France.* **2** *often derog* having advantage because of wealth, social rank etc.: *the privileged classes* **3** that a court of law cannot force one to make known: *a privileged communication*

priv·y[1] /ˈprɪvi/ *adj* **1** [F+**to**] *fml* sharing secret knowledge (of): *I was not privy to the discussions, so I cannot tell you what was decided.* **2** [A] *old use* secret; private –**-ily** *adv*

privy[2] also **outhouse** *AmE*– *n old use* a TOILET, esp. an outdoor one

Privy Coun·cil /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] (in Britain) a body of people of high rank in politics and public life who can be asked to advise the king or queen on certain state affairs – ~**lor** *n*

Privy Purse /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] (*sometimes not cap.*) (in Britain) money given by the government to a king or queen for their personal use

Privy Seal /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] see LORD PRIVY SEAL

prize[1] /praɪz/ *n* [(**for**)] something, typically valuable or desirable, given to someone who is successful in a game, race, competition, game of chance, etc., or given as a reward for some good action or work: *Hundreds of prizes can be won in our newspaper competition.* | **First** (=main) **prize** *in the raffle is a holiday for two in Paris.* | *Lady Browne will present the prizes after the school sports.* | *I will now announce the* **prizewinning** *entry in the competition.* | (fig.) *To some men wealth is the greatest prize in life, and to others, fame.* | (fig.) *There are no prizes for guessing who told them.* (=it is easy to guess)

prize[2] *adj* [A] **1** that has won a prize: *prize cattle | a prize rose* **2** given as a prize: *prize money* **3** *infml, often humor* complete; UTTER: *She always makes a mess of things; she's a prize idiot!*

prize[3] *v* [T] to value highly: *The boy's bicycle was his most prized possession. | This sort of hen is much prized for its high egg yield.*

prize[4] *n* **1** (esp. in former times) (the goods contained in) an enemy ship taken possession of at sea **2** something caught and taken away: *The fox raided the henhouse and ran off with its prize.* (=a chicken)

prize[5] also **prise** *esp. BrE* ‖also **pry** *esp. AmE*– *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to move, lift, or force with a tool or

metal bar: *We prized the top off the box|prized the box open with a lever.*

prize sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**of**)] to get (information) from someone with difficulty or by force: *At last we managed to prize the secret out of him with the offer of a bribe.*

prize day /ˈ· ·/ *n esp. BrE* (*often cap.*) (in a school) a yearly giving of prizes for good work done during the year

prize·fight /ˈpraɪzfaɪt/ *n* **1** (in former times) a public BOXING match for a money prize, in which the two men fought with bare hands **2** *AmE* a PROFESSIONAL BOXING match —~**er** *n* —~**ing** *n* [U]

pro /prəʊ/ *n* **pros** **1** *infml for* PROFESSIONAL[2] (2): *a pro footballer | That actor's a real pro, and always gives a good performance!* **2** *BrE old-fash infml for* PROSTITUTE[1] —see also PROS AND CONS

PRO /ˌpiː ɑːr ˈəʊ/ *n* a public relations officer; a person whose job is to supply information about an organization and keep a good relationship between it and the public

pro- see WORD FORMATION

pro-am /ˌprəʊ ˈæm◂/ *n, adj* [A] (a competition, esp. in GOLF) in which those taking part include both PROFESSIONALS (people who play for money) and AMATEURS (those who just play for pleasure)

prob·a·bil·i·ty /ˌprɒbəˈbɪlɨti‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* **1** [S;U (**of**)] the state of being probable or the degree to which something is probable; likelihood: *There's very little probability of an agreement being reached.* [+(*that*)] *There is a strong probability that the tumour is operable.* | **In all probability** (=almost certainly) *they will simply get a strong warning not to do it again* **2** [C] a probable event or result: *A peace agreement is now a real probability.* —opposite **improbability** (for 1,2) **3** [C] (in MATHEMATICS) the chance of an event happening, expressed as a calculation based on known numbers: *a probability of one in four*

prob·a·ble[1] /ˈprɒbəbəl‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* that may be expected to happen; that has a good chance of being true or correct; likely: *It's possible that they will win, but judging by their recent performances it doesn't seem very probable.* | *The probable outcome of the talks is a compromise.* [+*that*] *It is highly probable that there will be an election this year.* —opposite **improbable**

▷ USAGE Although it means the same as **likely**, **probable** cannot be used with *to-v*. You cannot use **probable** instead of **likely** in this type of sentence: *It is* **likely** *to happen.*◁

probable[2] *n infml* a person who is likely to be chosen for a team, to win a race, etc.

probable cause /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *law* a reason to believe that someone has committed (COMMIT) a crime and should go to court for a TRIAL

prob·a·bly /ˈprɒbəbli‖ˈprɑː-/ *adv* almost (but not quite) certainly; according to what is likely: *John probably told his father all about the matter; he usually tells him everything.* | *We're going on holiday soon, probably next month.* | *"Will you be able to come tomorrow?" "Probably not."*

pro·bate[1] /ˈprəʊbeɪt, -bɨt‖-beɪt/ *n law* [U] the legal process of deciding that someone's WILL[2] (5) has been properly made and can be carried out

probate[2] *v* [T] *AmE law* to prove (a WILL[2] (5)) to be legal

pro·ba·tion /prəˈbeɪʃən‖prəʊ-/ *n* [U] **1** the process of testing, for a usu. fixed length of time, the suitability of a person's character, abilities, etc. (e.g. for a job or for membership of a society): *You'll be* **on probation** *for the first two months.* **2** *law* the system of allowing certain lawbreakers not to go to prison, etc., if they behave well and report regularly to a PROBATION OFFICER for a fixed period of time: *The young offender was* **put on probation** *for two years.* —~**ary** *adj* : *a probationary period*

pro·ba·tion·er /prəˈbeɪʃənəʳ‖prəʊ-/ *n* **1** a person who is being tested for membership of a church or religious group **2** a young hospital nurse during the early part of training **3** a law-breaker who has been put on probation

probation hos·tel /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a place operated by local authorities in Britain, providing temporary housing and support for people who are on BAIL (1) —compare BAIL HOSTEL

probation of·fi·cer /·ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a person whose job is to watch, advise, and help law-breakers who are on probation

probe[1] /prəʊb/ *n* **1** a long thin metal instrument, usu. with a rounded end, esp. one used to search inside a wound, a hole in a tooth, etc. **2** also **space probe**— a spacecraft without humans on board, sent to examine conditions in outer space and send information back to Earth **3** [(**into**)] (esp. in newspapers) a careful and thorough inquiry: *a probe into police corruption*

probe[2] *v* [I (**into**);T] to search or examine (as if) with a probe: *He probed the mud with a stick, looking for the ring he had dropped.* | (fig.) *a newspaper report probing (into) the activities of drug dealers* | *probing questions* —**probingly** *adv*

pro·bi·ty /ˈprəʊbɨti/ *n* [U] *fml* perfect honesty; the quality of being completely honourable and trustworthy

prob·lem /ˈprɒbləm‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** a difficulty that needs attention and thought: *The biggest problem we face is the shortage of trained staff.* | *The shortage of trained staff poses* (= causes us to have) *a serious problem.* | *The problem is that we need the director's approval, but the director is on holiday.* | *"I've left my money at home." "That's* **no problem**. *I can lend you what you need."* | *a policy that will solve the unemployment problem* | *a conference to discuss the pressing* (=serious) *problem of drought in East Africa* **2** a question, esp. connected with numbers, facts, etc., for which an answer is needed: *to solve a mathematical problem* **3** [*usu. sing.*] *infml* a person who causes difficulty: *a problem child* **4 no problem** *AmE* it was no trouble; it doesn't matter (said when someone thanks you or says they are sorry for something)

prob·lem·at·ic /ˌprɒbləˈmætɪk◂‖ˌprɑː-/ also **prob·lem·at·i·cal** /-kəl/— *adj* full of problems or causing problems: *Putting this policy into effect could be very problematic.* —**-ically** /kli/ *adv*

problem solv·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the activity of finding answers to difficulties: *It's really a job for someone with good problem-solving abilities*

pro bo·no pub·li·co /prəʊ ˌbəʊnəʊ ˈpʊblɪkəʊ‖-ˌbɔːnəʊ ˈpuː-/ also **pro bono**— *adj Lat* for the public good; of or about work that is done for the help of the public and not for money, esp. work done by a lawyer or group of lawyers: *Some law firms have a policy of taking on pro bono cases when possible.*

pro·bos·cis /prəˈbɒsɨs‖-ˈbɑː-/ *n* **-cises** /sɨsiːz/*or* **-cides** /sɨdiːz/ *tech* **1** the long movable nose of certain animals, esp. the elephant **2** a long tube-like part of the mouth of some insects and worms

pro·ce·du·ral /prəˈsiːdʒərəl/ *adj* of procedure, esp. in a court of law: *procedural difficulties*

pro·ce·dure /prəˈsiːdʒəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] the method and order of directing business in an official meeting, a law case, etc.: *So much time was spent on agreeing procedure at our first meeting that we didn't start any actual business until our second.* **2** [C (**for**)] a set of actions necessary for doing something: *Writing a cheque is quite a simple procedure.* | *What's the correct procedure for renewing your car tax?* —compare PROCESS[1]

pro·ceed /prəˈsiːd/ *v* [I] *rather fml* **1** [(**to, with**)] to begin or continue in a course of action or set of actions: *The work is proceeding according to plan.* | *We can now proceed to the main business of the meeting.* | *He paused to consult his notes, and then proceeded with his questions.* [+*to-v*] *The director said he liked my scheme very much, and then proceeded to tear it to bits!* (=destroy it completely) **2** [+*adv|prep*] to advance; move in a particular direction: *According to the policeman's report, the stolen car was proceeding in a northerly direction.* | *Passengers for the New York flight should now proceed to Gate 25.* —compare PRECEDE

proceed against sbdy. *phr v* [T *pass. rare*] *fml* to take an action in law against

proceed from sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *fml* to happen or exist as a result of: *diseases that proceed from poverty*

pro·ceed·ing /prəˈsiːdɪŋ/ *n* [*often pl.*] **1** an act of business: *the necessary proceedings for the merger of the two banks* **2** *fml* an event or course of action, esp. one that is unusual or undesirable: *He watched the proceedings with interest.*

pro·ceed·ings /prəˈsiːdɪŋz/ *n* [P] **1** an action taken in law

(esp. in the phrases **start/take (legal) proceedings**) **2** (*often cap.*) the records of business, activities, etc., at the meetings of an association or club: *the Proceedings of the London Historical Society*

pro·ceeds /ˈprəʊsiːdz/ *n* [P] money gained from the sale of something, or as the result of some activity for getting money: *The proceeds of the sale amounted to £500.*

pro·cess[1] /ˈprəʊses‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** a connected set of natural actions or events that produce continuation or gradual change, and over which humans have little control: *Coal was formed out of dead forests by a long slow process of chemical change.* | *the process of breathing* | *the ageing process* (=by which people grow old) **2** a connected set of human actions or operations that are performed intentionally in order to reach a particular result or as part of an official system or established method of doing something: *the process of learning to read* | *the electoral/democratic process* | *The company is still* **in the process** (=performing the operation) *of moving to a new factory.* | *They are trying to extend the range of goods they sell and, in the process, to appeal to a new type of customer.* | *The police established the identity of the dead man* **by a process of elimination.** **3** a particular system or treatment of materials used esp. in producing goods: *an advanced industrial process* **4** *tech* part of a plant or animal that grows standing out and is easily seen **5** *tech* a legal action in all its stages —compare PROCEDURE

process[2] *v* [T] **1** to treat and preserve (a substance, esp. a food) by a particular PROCESS[1] (3): *processed cheese* **2** to print a picture from (a photographic film) **3** to put (information, numbers, etc.) into a computer for examination **4** to examine or deal with, esp. by means of an established system or process: *Your application for a mortgage is now being processed.*

pro·cess[3] /prəˈses/ *v* [I+ *adv/prep*] to walk (as if) in a procession

processed food /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] *usu. derog* food which has been prepared for sale and specially treated so that it can be stored, and so that it is attractive to the buyer, e.g. by adding extra colour to it. Processed foods are generally considered to be less healthy than fresh foods.

pro·ces·sion /prəˈseʃən/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a line of people, vehicles, etc., moving forward in an orderly way, e.g. as part of a religious ceremony or public entertainment: *a carnival procession* | (fig.) *interrupted by a procession of unwelcome visitors* **2** [C;U] a continuous onward movement of people or things: *The workers marched in procession.* | *to hold a procession*

pro·ces·sion·al /prəˈseʃənəl/ *adj* [A] connected with or used in a solemn religious procession: *a processional march/banner*

pro·ces·sor /ˈprəʊsesəʳ‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* a MICROPROCESSOR —see also FOOD PROCESSOR, WORD PROCESSOR

pro-choice /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj euph* favouring ABORTION being available to those who want it. In the US, people who are pro-choice often LOBBY Congress and walk in DEMONSTRATIONS. —compare PRO-LIFE; see also ABORTION (CULTURAL NOTE)

pro·claim /prəˈkleɪm‖prəʊ-/ *v* [T] **1** *fml* to make (esp. news of national importance) known publicly, esp. using speech rather than writing; declare officially: *The ringing bells proclaimed the birth of the prince.* | *A national holiday was proclaimed.* | *He proclaimed his intention of attending, despite their opposition.* [+*obj*+*n*] *The boy was proclaimed king.* **2** *lit* to show clearly; be an outward sign of: [+*obj*/(*that*)] *His accent proclaimed his American origins/proclaimed that he was American.*

proc·la·ma·tion /ˌprɒkləˈmeɪʃən‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] an official public statement: *a royal proclamation* **2** [U] the act of proclaiming

pro·cliv·i·ty /prəˈklɪvɨti‖prəʊ-/ *n* [(**to, towards**)] *fml* a strong natural liking or tendency, esp. towards something bad

pro·con·sul /prəʊˈkɒnsəl‖-ˈkɑːn-/ *n* a governor of a part of the ancient Roman Empire —~**ar** /prəʊˈkɒnsjʊləʳ‖-ˈkɑːnsələr/ *adj* [A]

pro·con·su·late /prəʊˈkɒnsjʊlɨt‖-ˈkɑːnsəl-/ also **pro·con·sul·ship** /prəʊˈkɒnsəlʃɪp‖-ˈkɑːn-/— *n* the rank or period of office of a proconsul

pro·cras·ti·nate /prəˈkræstɨneɪt/ *v* [I] *fml* to delay repeatedly and without good reason in doing something that must be done: *Stop procrastinating – just sit down and do it.* —**nation** /prəˌkræstɨˈneɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pro·cre·ate /ˈprəʊkrieɪt/ *v* [I;T] *esp. fml or tech* to produce or give life to (young) —**ation** /ˌprəʊkriˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

Procter & Gam·ble /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ *tdmk* an American company which makes washing powder and many different cleaning products

proc·tor[1] /ˈprɒktəʳ‖ˈprɑːk-/ *n* **1** (esp. at Oxford and Cambridge) a university officer whose duties include making students keep university rules **2** *AmE* a person appointed to make sure students do not cheat in an examination

proctor[2] *v* [T] *AmE for* INVIGILATE

pro·cu·ra·tor fis·cal /ˌprɒkjʊəreɪtə ˈfɪskəl‖ˌprɑːkjʊəreɪtər-/ also **fiscal** *infml*— *n* an official in Scotland who is in charge of deciding whether there is enough evidence against a person for them to be sent to court for a TRIAL —see also extra information on page 739

pro·cure /prəˈkjʊəʳ‖prəʊ-/ *v* [(**for**)] **1** [T] *fml* to obtain, esp. by effort or careful attention: *I managed to procure two tickets for the final.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Somehow he had procured us an invitation.* **2** [I;T] *derog, esp. lit* to provide (a woman) for someone else's sexual satisfaction —~**ment** *n* [U]

pro·cur·er /prəˈkjʊərəʳ/ **pro·cur·ess** /-rɨs/ *fem.*— *n* a person who procures (esp. PROCURE (2))

prod[1] /prɒd‖prɑːd/ *v* **-dd-** **1** [I (**at**); T] to push or press (something or someone) with a pointed object; POKE: *He prodded (at) the snake with his toe to make sure it was dead.* | *She prodded him in the ribs.* **2** [T (**into**)] to urge sharply into action or thought: *The announcement prodded us into action.* | *He's not lazy, exactly, but he needs prodding.*

prod[2] *n* **1** an act of prodding: *You'd better give her memory a prod.* (=remind her) **2** an instrument used for prodding

prod·i·gal[1] /ˈprɒdɪgəl‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* **1** *derog* carelessly wasteful, esp. of money: *his prodigal lifestyle* **2** [F+**of**] *fml apprec* giving or producing large amounts freely and generously: *a mind prodigal of ideas* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ity** /ˌprɒdɪˈgælɨti‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U]

prodigal[2] *n infml, often humor* a person who leads a life of careless wasteful spending and perhaps immoral pleasure

prodigal son /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] (often *cap.*) a young man in a story in the Bible who leaves home and wastes his time and money but then feels sorry and returns home, where he receives a joyful welcome from his family —see also **kill the fatted calf** (KILL)

pro·di·gious /prəˈdɪdʒəs/ *adj* wonderfully large, powerful, etc.: *a prodigious memory* —~**ly** *adv*

prod·i·gy /ˈprɒdɪdʒi‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** a person who has unusual and very noticeable abilities: *a* **child prodigy** (=an unusually clever child) **2** a wonder in nature: *Mount Everest is one of nature's prodigies.*

pro·duce[1] /prəˈdjuːs‖-ˈduːs/ *v* **1** [T] to grow or bring into existence naturally: *These trees produce rubber.* | *The pancreas is an organ in the body that produces insulin.* | *Canada produces high-quality wheat.* **2** [I;T] to make (goods for sale), esp. in large quantities: *They produce over 250 cars a week.* | *Gas can be produced from coal.* | *The factory hasn't begun to produce yet.* —see also MASS PRODUCE **3** [T] to make by using skill and imagination: *to produce a work of art* | *She can produce a delicious meal from simple ingredients.* **4** [T] to give birth to (a young animal): *Female sheep produce one or two lambs at a time.* | (*humor*) *Mrs Dobson has just produced twins.* **5** [T] to show, bring out, or offer for examination or consideration: *The magician produced a rabbit from a hat.* | *Can you produce any proof of your date of birth?* | *He suddenly produced a gun.* **6** [T] to prepare and bring before the public: *The book/The play was produced on a very small budget.* **7** [T] to cause; have as a result or effect: *The election did not produce a clear victory for any party.* | *The two lasers combine to produce a powerful cutting tool.* **8** [T] *tech* (in GEOMETRY) to lengthen or continue (a line) to a point —see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

prod·uce[2] /ˈprɒdjuːs‖ˈprəʊduːs/ *n* [U] something that has been produced, esp. by growing or farming: *The wine bottle was marked "Produce of Spain".* —see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

pro·duc·er /prəˈdjuːsəʳ‖-ˈduː-/ *n* **1** a person, company, or country that produces goods, foods, or materials: *one of the world's leading oil producers* —compare CONSUMER **2** a person who has general control esp. of the money for a play, film, or broadcast, but who does not direct the actors —compare DIRECTOR (2), IMPRESARIO; see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

prod·uct /ˈprɒdʌkt‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** something useful produced by growth or from the ground, or made in a factory: *The country's main products are cocoa and gold.* | *a decline in our exports of manufactured products* | *to market new products* | *the finished product coming off the assembly line* —see also BY-PRODUCT, END PRODUCT, GNP **2** something that is produced as a result of thought, will, planning, conditions, etc.: *Today's housing problems are the product of years of neglect.* **3** [(**of**)] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) the number got by multiplying two or more numbers: *The product of 3 multiplied by 2 multiplied by 6 is 36.* **4** *tech* a new chemical compound produced by chemical action —see PRODUCTION (USAGE)

pro·duc·tion /prəˈdʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] the act of producing something: *Entrance is permitted only on production of a ticket.* | *She has been involved in the production of several well-known films.* **2** [U] the process of making products: *one of the stages in the production of paper* | *When will the new range of computers* **go into (full) production?** (=begin to be produced in large numbers) | *a factory's production manager* | *to stimulate production* **3** [U] the amount produced: *Production of steel has increased in the last few weeks.* | *a cut in production* **4** [C] something produced by skill or imagination, esp. a work of art or a play, film, or broadcast: *This theatre is known for its imaginative productions.* —see also MASS PRODUCTION

▷ USAGE Compare **production, product, produce,** and **producer. Production** [U] is the process in which things are made: *a good rate of* **production**. A **production** [C] is a play, film, etc. made for the theatre, television, etc.: *a new* **production** *of "Hamlet"*. A **product** [C] is something made by industry: *various industrial* **products. Produce** [U] (ˈ·ˌ·) is the general word for things got from a farm, such as milk, potatoes, or wool: *a large quantity of agricultural* **produce.** If you **produce** (·ˈ·) any of the things mentioned above you are a **producer**.◁

production line /·ˈ·· ·/ *n* an arrangement of workers and machines in a factory so that the stages of work follow each other in order; ASSEMBLY LINE

production num·ber /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* (in a MUSICAL[2]) a scene involving many people singing and usu. dancing on the stage all at once

production plat·form /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a large piece of equipment standing on very long legs used for getting oil out of the ground under the sea

pro·duc·tive /prəˈdʌktɪv/ *adj* **1** that produces well or in large quantities: *a very productive writer* | *productive land* | *a productive meeting* (=bringing useful results) — opposite **unproductive** **2** of or resulting in the production of goods or wealth: *Office work is necessary, but most of it is not directly productive.* | *the factory's productive capacity* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pro·duc·tiv·i·ty /ˌprɒdʌkˈtɪvəti, -dək-‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U] the rate of producing goods, crops, etc.; the relationship between the amount that is produced and the work, money, etc., that is needed to produce it: *new production methods that have led to high|increased productivity* | *a productivity bonus*

prof /prɒf‖prɑːf/ *n sl for* PROFESSOR (1,2)

Prof *written abbrev. for:* PROFESSOR (1,2): *Prof Peter Smith*

pro·fane[1] /prəˈfeɪn/ *adj* **1** showing disrespect for God or for holy things: *To smoke in a church or mosque would be a profane act.* **2** (esp. of language) socially shocking, esp. because of improper use of religious words — compare OBSCENE **3** *fml* not religious or holy; concerned with human life in this world; SECULAR: *profane art* — opposite **sacred** —~**ly** *adv*

profane[2] *v* [T] to treat (esp. something holy) disrespectfully —**-fanation** /ˌprɒfəˈneɪʃən‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [C;U]

pro·fan·i·ty /prəˈfænəti/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) being profane, esp. in language: *Their conversation was full of profanities.* (=shocking words) —compare BLASPHEMY, OBSCENITY

pro·fess /prəˈfes/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to make a (usu. false or insincere) claim of or about: *She professed ignorance of their intentions.* [+*to-v*] *I don't profess to know anything about poetry.* **2** to declare openly or freely (a personal feeling, belief, etc.): *The president has professed his enthusiasm for the scheme.* [+*obj+n|adj*] *She professed herself (to be) completely satisfied with the arrangements.* **3** to have (a religion or belief)

pro·fessed /prəˈfest/ *adj* **1** [A] plainly self-declared: *She is a professed man-hater.* **2** pretended: *a professed sorrow* —~**ly** /prəˈfesəd-li/ *adv*

pro·fes·sion /prəˈfeʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a form of employment, esp. one that is possible only for an educated person and after training (such as law, medicine, or teaching) and that is respected in society as honourable: *He is a lawyer* **by profession**. | *to pursue a profession* —see JOB (USAGE) **2** [*the+sing./pl. v*] the whole body of people in a particular profession: *The teaching profession claim(s) to be badly paid.* | *Dr Wilde is well-respected by leading members of the (medical) profession.* **3** [C (**of**)] *fml* a declaration of one's belief, opinion, or feeling: *professions of regret* **4 the oldest profession in the world** *humor* the profession of being a PROSTITUTE

pro·fes·sion·al[1] /prəˈfeʃənəl/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] of or working in one of the professions: *I'm not sure about your legal position in this matter: I think you should take professional advice.* (=from a lawyer) | *Our doctor has been accused of professional misconduct.* **2** *usu. apprec* showing the qualities of training of a member of a profession: *You made a good job of painting the kitchen — very professional!* | *professional standards* | *Don't wear those old clothes to work; try to look more professional.* **3** [*no comp.*] doing for money what others do **a** for enjoyment: *a professional photographer* | *a footballer who has just* **turned professional** (=started to play football as a job) **b** themselves, in order to save money: *a professional painter and decorator* —compare AMATEUR (1) **4** [*no comp.*] done by people who are paid: *professional football* —compare AMATEUR **5** [A *no comp.*] *BrE euph* (of a breaking of rules in sport) intentional: *If a footballer handles the ball to stop another player getting it, it is often called a professional foul.* —~**ly** *adv* : *She was professionally trained.*

professional[2] also **pro** *infml*— *n* **1** *apprec* a person who has great experience and high professional standards: *She's a real professional.* **2** a person who earns money by practising a particular skill or sport —compare AMATEUR **3** (*often in comb.*) a sportsman employed by a private club to play for it and to teach its members: *a tennis professional*

Professional Golf·ers' As·so·ci·a·tion of A·me·ri·ca /·ˌ··· ˌ·· ···ˌ·· · ·ˈ···/ *n* see PGA

pro·fes·sion·al·is·m /prəˈfeʃənəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** *often apprec* the behaviour, skill, or qualities shown by a professional **2** (in sports) the practice of using professional players

professional per·son /·ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* an educated man or woman who usu. has a job in an office and who is often seen by other people as someone who has high standards of behaviour: *Professional person wanted to rent small house.*

pro·fes·sor /prəˈfesəʳ/ *n* **1** *BrE* a teacher of the highest rank in a university department: *Professor Ward* | *a history professor|a professor of history* | *Certainly, professor.* —see also ABSENT-MINDED PROFESSOR **2** *AmE* any full member of the teaching body at a university or college **3** a title taken by those who teach or claim various skills: *Madame Clara, professor of dancing*

pro·fes·so·ri·al /ˌprɒfəˈsɔːriəl◂‖ˌprɑː-/ *adj* of a university professor: *professorial rank* —**-ally** *adv*

pro·fes·sor·ship /prəˈfesəʃɪp‖-sər-/ *n* the position of a university professor

prof·fer /ˈprɒfəʳ‖ˈprɑː-/ *v* [T (**to**)] *fml* to offer, esp. by holding out in the hands for acceptance: *She refused the proffered drink.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *He proffered me a cigar.*

pro·fi·cient /prəˈfɪʃənt/ *adj* [(**at, in**)] thoroughly skilled; well practised: *She is proficient at|in operating the computer.* | *a proficient typist* —~**ly** *adv* —**-ciency** *n* [U (**at, in**)] : *a maths proficiency test*

pro·file[1] /ˈprəʊfaɪl/ *n* **1** a side view, esp. of someone's head: *He drew her profile.* | *She photographed him* **in profile**. **2** an edge or shape of something seen against a background: *the sharp profile of the hills against the sky* **3** the state of being noticed by other people around one: *He is attracting most of the criticism, partly because of his* **high** *political* **profile** *at the moment.* | *The government is trying to keep a* **low profile** *on this issue.* **4** [**(of)**] a short description, esp. of a person's life and character, esp. as given on television or in a newspaper: *an exclusive profile of the new tennis champion*

profile



profile[2] *v* [T] to draw, write, or show a profile of: *an article profiling the new Soviet leader*

prof·it[1] /ˈprɒfɪt‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** [C;U] money gained by trade or business: *There's very little profit in selling newspapers at present.* | *The company announced a trading profit/a pre-tax profit of £2 million for 1986, after making a loss in 1985.* | *We sold our house* **at a profit**. (=sold it for more than it had cost) | *They* **made a profit** *of £6000 on the deal.* | *I made a handsome* (=very good) *profit from the sale of my car.* | *a non-profit-making organization* | *a for-profit hospital chain* | *hoping to bring the system into profit this year* | *net/gross profit* **2** [U] *fml* advantage gained from some action: *reading for profit and pleasure* —~**less** *adj* —~**lessly** *adv*

profit[2] *v* [T +*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *fml or old use* to be of advantage to (someone): *It will profit you nothing to do that.*

profit by/from sthg. *phr v* [T] to learn or gain advantage from (an experience, activity, etc.): *You can profit by my mistakes and avoid them yourself.* [+*v-ing*] *She has certainly profited from spending a year in England.*

prof·it·a·bil·i·ty /ˌprɒfɪtəˈbɪlɪti‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U] the state of being profitable or the degree to which a business or operation is profitable: *The company hopes to return to profitability this year.* | *high profitability*

prof·i·ta·ble /ˈprɒfɪtəbəl‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* producing or resulting in profit or advantage: *a profitable deal* | *It's a very profitable little business.* | *We spent a profitable day cleaning out the cupboards.* —opposite **unprofitable** —**bly** *adv*

profit and loss ac·count /ˌ·· · ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* a financial statement showing a company's income, spending, and profit over a certain period

prof·i·teer /ˌprɒfɪˈtɪəʳ‖ˌprɑː-/ *n derog* a person who makes unfairly large profits, esp. by selling things at very high prices when much-needed goods are difficult to get: *black market profiteers* —**profiteer** *v* [I] —~**ing** *n* [U] : *arrested for profiteering*

profit mar·gin /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* the difference between the cost of production and the selling price: *a high profit margin*

profit shar·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] a system according to which the workers share in the profits of a factory, business, etc.

prof·li·gate[1] /ˈprɒflɪgət‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* **1** [**(of)**] carelessly and foolishly wasteful, esp. of money: *profligate spending by our local council* **2** *fml* wicked; shamelessly immoral —**-gacy** *n* [U] *fml*

profligate[2] *n fml* a profligate person

pro·found /prəˈfaʊnd/ *adj* **1** deep; very strongly felt; INTENSE: *There was a profound silence in the empty church.* | *The incident made a profound impression on me.* **2** *often apprec* having or using thorough knowledge and deep understanding: *a profound thinker* | *a very profound remark* **3** [A] *lit or fml* deep; far below the surface: *in the profound depths of the ocean* **4** *tech* complete: *profound deafness* —~**ly** *adv* : *I am profoundly grateful.*

Pro·fu·mo Scan·dal /prəʊˈfjuːməʊ ˌskændl/ [*the*] also **Profumo Af·fair** /·ˈ·· ·ˌ·/— the sexual relationship, which became public in 1963, between John Profumo, the Minister of War in the Conservative government, and a young woman, Christine Keeler, and the activities of others connected with this. After first lying in Parliament about the affair, Profumo later admitted to it and was forced to RESIGN. It was discovered that Keeler had also had an affair with a Russian naval officer but an official report later said that no national secrets had been given away. Newspaper reports of wild parties and sexual behaviour involving important public figures mixing with criminals shocked the public and severely embarrassed the government. —see also Mandy RICE-DAVIES

pro·fun·di·ty /prəˈfʌndɪti/ *n fml* **1** [U] the quality of being profound, esp. in feeling or understanding **2** [C *usu. pl.*] something profound, esp. a profound thought or idea

pro·fuse /prəˈfjuːs/ *adj* **1** produced, flowing, or poured out freely and in great quantity: *a profuse mass of curls* | *profuse tears* | *profuse apologies* **2** [F **(in, of)**] (too) eager, free, or generous in giving (praise, thanks, etc.): *She was profuse in her thanks.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pro·fu·sion /prəˈfjuːʒən/ *n fml* [S **(of)**;U] large supply; great or too great amount: *flowers growing* **in profusion** | *The room was spoilt by a profusion of ugly little ornaments.*

pro·gen·i·tor /prəʊˈdʒenɪtəʳ/ *n* [**(of)**] *tech or fml* a person or thing from the distant past, from which someone or something is descended; ANCESTOR or PRECURSOR: *Schoenberg was a progenitor of modern music.*

prog·e·ny /ˈprɒdʒəni‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] **1** *tech or lit* the descendants of a person, animal, or plant form **2** *sometimes humor* a person's children or an animal's young: *Her numerous progeny were all asleep.*

pro·ges·ter·one /prəʊˈdʒestərəʊn/ *n* [U] a substance in the female organs that prepares the UTERUS (=the child-bearing part) for its work. Because it stops the production of eggs from the OVARY, it is widely used in making the PILL (2).

prog·na·thous /prɒgˈneɪθəs‖prɑːg-/ *adj tech* having or being a jaw that sticks out

prog·no·sis /prɒgˈnəʊsɪs‖prɑːg-/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ **1** *med* a doctor's opinion, based on medical experience, of what course a disease will probably take —compare DIAGNOSIS **2** *fml* judgment about the future based on information or experience

prog·nos·ti·cate /prɒgˈnɒstɪkeɪt‖prɑːgˈnɑː-/ *v* [T] *fml or humor* to say or be a sign of (what is going to happen) —**-cator** *n* —**-cation** /prɒgˌnɒstɪˈkeɪʃən‖prɑːgˌnɑː-/ *n* [C;U]

pro·gram[1] /ˈprəʊgræm/ *n* **1** a list of instructions that must be given to a computer in order to make it perform an operation: *to write a program* | *a new program for forecasting our sales figures* **2** *AmE* a programme

program[2] *v* **-mm-** *or* **-m-** [T] **1** to supply (a computer) with a program: *a programming language* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The computer can be programmed to list all the French words in the dictionary* **2** *AmE* to programme

pro·gram·er /ˈprəʊgræməʳ/ *n* a PROGRAMMER

pro·gram·ma·ble /ˈprəʊgræməbəl/ *adj* controllable by means of a program: *a programmable heating system*

pro·gramme[1] *BrE* ‖ **-gram** *AmE* /ˈprəʊgræm/ *n* **1** a (printed) list of performers or things to be performed at a concert, a theatre, a sports competition, etc.: *According to the programme, the first race starts at two.* **2** a complete show or performance, esp. one made up of several different parts: *What is your favourite TV programme?* | *a current affairs programme on the radio* **3** a list of planned activities; plan for future action: *The hospital building programme has been delayed by lack of money.* | (*esp. AmE*) *The Republican Party's election program promises big tax cuts.* **4** *BrE* a set of actions performed in order by a machine such as a washing machine or MICROWAVE: *I think it would be best to do it on the wool programme.* | *The microwave has a separate programme for defrosting.*

programme[2] *BrE* ‖ *-gram AmE*— *v* **-mm-** [T] to plan or arrange: [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The central heating system/ washing machine/microwave is programmed to start working at six o'clock.*

programmed course /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* an educational course in which the material is arranged in a book or a machine to be seen in small amounts, each of which must be learnt and tested before passing on to the next

programmed learn·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] an educational system in which one teaches oneself by means of a PROGRAMMED COURSE

programme mu·sic /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] descriptive music, using sound to suggest a story, picture, etc.

pro·gram·mer , programer /ˈprəʊgræməʳ/ *n* a person who writes computer programs

pro·gress[1] /ˈprəʊgres‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] forward movement in space; advance: *The ship made slow progress through*

the rough sea. **2** [U] continual improvement or development towards an intended or desired result: *Jane is still in hospital, but she's making (good|rapid) progress.* (=is getting better) | *He's not making much progress with his English.* | *Progress in the peace talks has been rather disappointing.* **3** [U] the process of continuing or being done: *Please do not enter the classroom while a lesson is* **in progress**. **4** [C] *old use* an official ceremonial journey, esp. of a king or queen

pro·gress[2] /prə'gres/ *v* [I] **1** to move forward in space or time; advance: *It became hotter and hotter as the day progressed.* | *Later he progressed to more difficult tasks.* **2** to improve; develop favourably: *Work on the new road is progressing quite well.* | *"Your father is progressing nicely," said the nurse.* —compare REGRESS

pro·gres·sion /prə'greʃən/ *n* **1** [S;U] (the action of) progressing, esp. by stages **2** [C] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a set of numbers that vary in a particular way —see also ARITHMETIC PROGRESSION, GEOMETRIC PROGRESSION

pro·gres·sive[1] /prə'gresɪv/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] moving forward or developing continuously or by stages: *a progressive decline in exports* | *progressive loss of sight in old age* **2** *usu. apprec* favouring change or new ideas, e.g. in politics or education: *a progressive thinker|school* | *This is a progressive firm that uses the most modern systems.* **3** [*no comp.*] *tech* (of a verb form) showing action that is continuing. Progressive forms are shown in English by **be**+PRESENT PARTICIPLE, as in "They *are waiting* for a bus" or "She *was reading* a book". Verbs that cannot be used like this, such as "know", are marked [*not in progressive forms*] in this dictionary. —~**ly** *adv* : *It got progressively worse|better.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

progressive[2] *n* a person with progressive ideas, esp. about social change

Progressive Con·ser·va·tive Par·ty /ˌ··ˈ··· ˈ···ˌ··/ [*the*] one of the main political parties in Canada: *Prime Minister Mulroney's Progresssive Conservatives have tried to placate the separatist Québécois.*

Progressive Par·ty /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] any of three separate political organizations in the US that were active in the presidential elections of 1912, 1924, and 1948 and were in favour of social REFORM

progressive tax /·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a tax that takes a larger PERCENTAGE of money from people with higher incomes than from those with low incomes —compare REGRESSIVE TAX

progress re·port /ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ *n* a statement about how something, esp. work, is advancing or developing

pro·hib·it /prə'hɪbɨt‖prəʊ-/ *v* [T (**from**)] *fml* **1** to forbid by law or rule: *Smoking in this railway carriage is (strictly) prohibited.* | *We are prohibited from drinking alcohol during working hours.* **2** to prevent; make impossible: *The price prohibited us from buying it.*

pro·hi·bi·tion /ˌprəʊhɨ'bɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U (**of**)] the act of prohibiting something **2** [C (**against**)] *fml* an order forbidding something **3** [U] (*usu. cap.*) the forbidding by law of the making or sale of alcoholic drinks

Prohibition the period from 1919 to 1933 in the US when the making, sale, and TRANSPORT of alcoholic drinks was forbidden by law. It was impossible to make people obey the law and there was a lot of criminal activity. Prohibition is the subject of many American films. —see also BOOTLEG, SPEAKEASY

pro·hi·bi·tion·ist /ˌprəʊhɨ'bɪʃənɨst/ *n* a person who supports PROHIBITION (3)

pro·hib·i·tive /prə'hɪbɨtɪv‖prəʊ-/ *adj* preventing or tending to discourage something: *The government has put a prohibitive tax* (=higher than anyone can pay) *on foreign goods.* —~**ly** *adv* : *prohibitively expensive*

pro·hib·i·to·ry /prə'hɪbɨtəri‖prəʊ'hɪbɨtɔːri/ *adj fml* intended to prohibit something: *a prohibitory gesture*

proj·ect[1] /'prɒdʒekt‖'prɑː-/ *n* **1** a piece of work that needs skill, effort, and careful planning, esp. over a period of time: *In their geography class, the children are doing a special project on Native Americans.* | *The new dam is a major construction project, funded by the government.* **2** *AmE* a HOUSING PROJECT

pro·ject[2] /prə'dʒekt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) stick out beyond an edge or surface: *a signpost projecting from the wall* **2** [T (**at, into**)] to throw through the air with force; PROPEL: *to project a missile into space* | (fig.) *Try to project your mind into the future and imagine what life will be like then.* **3** [T *usu. pass.*] to think about as a likely course of action; plan: *our projected visit to Australia* | *projected cuts in government expenditure* **4** to judge or calculate, using the information one has: *projected sales figures* **5** [T (**into, onto**)] to cause (heat, sound, light, or shadow) to be directed into space or onto a surface: *I had no screen, so I projected the slides onto an old white sheet.* | *A singer must learn to project his voice so as to be heard in a large hall.* —see also PROJECTOR **6** [I;T] to express or represent (oneself or one's qualities) outwardly, esp. in a way that has a favourable effect on others: *to project oneself in order to make a good impression on an interviewer* **7** [I;T (**on, onto**)] to imagine (one's own esp. bad feelings or thoughts) as being experienced by others: *Don't project your guilt feelings onto me!* **8** [T] *tech* **a** to make a picture of (a solid, esp. curved, object) on a flat surface **b** to make (a map) by this means

pro·jec·tile /prə'dʒektaɪl‖-tl/ *n fml or tech* an object or weapon that is thrown or shot forward, esp. from a gun

pro·jec·tion /prə'dʒekʃən/ *n* **1** [C] something that sticks out from a surface: *small projections from the wall of the cave* **2** [C (**of**)] something planned, esp. a guess of future possibilities, based on the general direction of events at a particular time: *These figures show our projection of the town's population increase over the next ten years.* **3** [C] an image, sound, etc., that has been projected **4** [U] the act of projecting **5** [C] *tech* a figure, esp. a map, that has been projected —see also MERCATOR PROJECTION

pro·jec·tion·ist /prə'dʒekʃənɨst/ *n* a person who works a cinema projector

pro·jec·tor /prə'dʒektəʳ/ *n* an apparatus for projecting films or pictures onto a surface —see also OVERHEAD PROJECTOR

Pro·kof·i·ev /prə'kɒfief‖-'kɔː-/, **Ser·gei** /'seəgeɪ‖seər'geɪ/ (1891–1953) a Russian COMPOSER, whose works include the *Classical Symphony*, the BALLET *Romeo and Juliet*, and the musical story *Peter and the Wolf*

pro·lapse /prəʊ'læps/ *v* [I] *med* (of an inner body organ, such as the bowel) to slip or fall down out of the proper place: *a prolapsed uterus* —**prolapse** /'prəʊlæps‖prəʊ-'læps/ *n*

prole /prəʊl/ *n derog* a member of the proletariat

pro·le·gom·e·na /ˌprəʊlɨ'gɒmɨnə‖-'gɑː-/ *n* **-ena** /ɨnə/ *fml* a written introduction to a serious book

pro·le·tar·i·an /ˌprəʊlɨ'teəriən◂/ *n, adj often derog* (a member) of the proletariat

pro·le·tar·i·at /ˌprəʊlɨ'teəriət/ *n* [*the*+*sing.*/*pl. v*] the class of workers who own little or no property and have to work for wages, esp. at unskilled jobs in the city. This word is used esp. by Karl Marx who believed that in time the industrial proletariat would win their struggle against CAPITALISM.

pro-life /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj euph* opposed to ABORTION

►CULTURAL NOTE In the US, pro-life groups are very active and LOBBY Congress. Some **pro-lifers** have even used violence, such as throwing bombs at CLINICS that perform abortions. Pro-life groups will often protest at such hospitals and clinics by walking in front of them holding signs with pro-life SLOGANS on them. —see also LIFE; compare PRO-CHOICE; see also ABORTION (CULTURE NOTE)◄

pro-lif·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a person who is opposed to ABORTION

pro·lif·e·rate /prə'lɪfəreɪt/ *v* [I] to increase rapidly in numbers or by producing new parts: *During the 1980s, computer companies proliferated.*

pro·lif·e·ra·tion /prəˌlɪfə'reɪʃən/ *n* **1** [S;U] a rapid increase or spreading: *the proliferation of nuclear weapons* —see also NONPROLIFERATION **2** [C] *tech* (in BIOLOGY) a part formed by the division of cells

pro·lif·ic /prə'lɪfɪk/ *adj* **1** producing many young, fruit, etc.: *Rats are very prolific.* | *prolific plants* **2** *usu. apprec* producing many works: *a prolific writer* | *During their most prolific years, this research team was publishing new evidence every month.* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

pro·lix /'prəʊlɪks‖prəʊ'lɪks/ *adj fml* (of a speech, writer, etc.) using too many words and therefore tiringly and uninterestingly long; WORDY —~**ity** /prə'lɪksɨti‖prəʊ-/ *n* [U]

Pro·log /'prəʊlɒg‖-lɔːg, -lɑːg/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a computer language often used for educational purposes

pro·logue ‖ also **prolog** *AmE* /'prəʊlɒg‖-lɔːg, -lɑːg/ *n* [(**to**)]

1 (*sometimes cap.*) an introduction to a play, long poem, etc. —compare EPILOGUE (1) **2** an act or event that leads up to and causes another more important set of events: *The border incident proved to be just the prologue to a full-scale invasion.*

pro·long /prə'lɒŋ‖-'lɔːŋ/ *v* [T] to make longer; lengthen: *She tried desperately to prolong the conversation.* | *He prolonged his visit by two weeks.* —compare PROTRACT

pro·lon·ga·tion /ˌprəʊlɒŋ'geɪʃən‖-lɔːŋ-/ *n* **1** [U] the action of prolonging something **2** [C (**of**)] something added that prolongs something

pro·longed /prə'lɒŋd‖-'lɔːŋd/ *adj* continuing for a long time: *a prolonged silence/absence*

prom /prɒm‖prɑːm/ *n* **1** *AmE* a formal dance party given for students in a HIGH SCHOOL or college class

► CULTURAL NOTE The most important prom in high school is the **Senior Prom**, which is held at the end of the school year for the students who are in their last (SENIOR) year of high school. It is often held either in the high school GYMNASIUM or in a room with a dance floor at a hotel. Usually boys ask girls to go with them, but sometimes people go as a group of friends. There are usu. parties after the prom is over. ◄

2 *BrE infml for* PROMENADE[1] (1): *sitting on the prom, smelling the fresh sea air* **3** (*often cap.*) *BrE infml for* PROMENADE CONCERT

prom·e·nade[1] /ˌprɒmə'nɑːd◂, 'prɒmənɑːd‖ˌprɑːmə'neɪd◂/ *n* **1** a wide path beside a road along the coast in a holiday town —compare FRONT[1] (3) **2** *fml* an unhurried walk, ride, or drive for pleasure or exercise

promenade[2] *v fml* **1** [I; T] to walk slowly up and down along (a place, street, etc.) **2** [T] *sometimes derog* to take on an unhurried walk, ride, or drive, esp. for show

promenade con·cert /'··· ˌ··/ *n* (*sometimes caps.*) (esp. in Britain) a concert at which parts of the hall have no seats and are used by listeners who stand. A number of these CLASSICAL MUSIC concerts are held over a period of several weeks every summer in the Royal Albert Hall and are usu. called the Proms. Established by Henry Wood in 1895 and conducted (CONDUCT[1] (4)) for many years by Sir Malcolm Sargent, they have become a well-known national event. In particular, the last night of the Proms is a special occasion. —see also LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

promenade deck /'··· ˌ·/ *n* an upper DECK of a passenger ship, usu. open at the sides, where people may walk

Pro·me·the·us /prə'miːθiəs, -θjuːs/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a GIANT who stole fire from heaven to give to men. He was kept in chains and punished by Zeus, and was finally freed by Hercules. He is the subject of many works of literature.

prom·i·nence /'prɒmɨnəns‖'prɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] the fact or quality of being prominent or noticeable; importance: *The newspapers gave the story undue prominence.* | *This young fashion designer is rising to/coming into prominence.* (=attracting more and more attention) **2** [C] *fml* a part or place that is PROMINENT (1)

prom·i·nent /'prɒmɨnənt‖'prɑː-/ *adj* **1** sticking or stretching out beyond a surface: *She has prominent teeth.* **2** noticeable; easily seen: *Our house is in a prominent position.* **3** of great importance, fame, etc.: *a prominent musician/citizen/critic of the government* —~**ly** *adv*

pro·mis·cu·ous /prə'mɪskjuəs/ *adj* **1** *derog* having many sexual partners: *a promiscuous girl/life* **2** *fml* of many sorts mixed together in a disorderly way **3** *fml* not choosing carefully; INDISCRIMINATE —~**ly** *adv* —**-ity** /ˌprɒmɨ'skjuːɨti‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U] : *the dangers of promiscuity*

prom·ise[1] /'prɒmɨs‖'prɑː-/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** [C] a statement, which someone else has a right to believe and depend on, that one will or will not do something, give something, etc.: *If you make a promise you shouldn't break it.* | *Do politicians ever keep their promises?* (=do what they say they will do) [+*to-v*/*that*] *Despite their promise to bring down inflation/that they would bring down inflation, prices have gone on rising.* | *a promise of help/support* | *a solemn promise* | *campaign promises* | *a government that can deliver its promises* **2** [S;U] expectation or signs of future success, good results, etc.: *The news brings little promise of peace.* | *My son is showing great promise as a cricketer.*

promise[2] *v* **1** [I;T (**to**)] to make a promise to do or give (something) or that (something) will be done: *They have promised their support.* | *"She's not coming tonight." "But she promised!"* | *"I'll do it tomorrow." "Promise?" "Yes, I promise."* [+*to-v*] *I promise not to be late again.* [+(*that*)] *They promised (that) the work would all be finished by next week.* [+*obj*+(*that*)] *I promised my mother (that) I'd write to her.* | *I can't give you the book; I've promised it to Susan.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Her parents have promised her a new bike if she passes the exam.* | *She's been promised a new bike.* | **I promise you**, (=I warn you), *the work won't be easy.* **2** [T] to cause one to expect or hope for (something): *The clear sky promises fine weather.* [+*to-v*] *It promises to be a fine day.* **3 promise someone the moon/the earth** *infml* to promise to give someone something that is beyond one's ability to give

Promised Land /ˌ·· '·/ *n* **1** [*the*] (in the Bible) the land of Canaan promised by God to Abraham and his people **2** [(*the*) S] a place or condition not yet experienced which one believes will bring happiness

prom·is·ing /'prɒmɨsɪŋ‖'prɑː-/ *adj apprec* showing signs of likely future success; full of PROMISE[1] (2): *a promising young singer* —opposite **unpromising** —~**ly** *adv*

prom·is·sory note /ˌprɒmɨsəri 'nəʊt‖ˌprɑːmɨsɔːri-/ *n* a written promise to pay a certain sum of money on demand or on a stated date

pro·mo /'prəʊməʊ/ *n* **-s** *infml* something, such as a short film, intended to advertise a product or activity

prom·on·to·ry /'prɒməntəri‖'prɑːməntɔːri/ *n* a long narrow point of land stretching out into the sea; HEADLAND

pro·mote /prə'məʊt/ *v* [T] **1** [(**to**)] **a** to give (someone) a higher position or rank: *My daughter's just been promoted!* | *The young army officer was promoted to (the rank of) captain.* [+*obj*+*n*] (*esp. BrE*) *They promoted him captain.* —opposite **demote b** *esp. BrE* to put (a team) up to a higher level in a sports competition: *After this win, Manchester United were promoted to the First Division.* —compare RELEGATE **2** to help actively in forming or arranging (a business, concert, play, etc.): *to promote a boxing match* | *to promote a bill in Parliament* (=introduce and support it) **3** to bring (goods) to public notice in order to encourage people to buy: *a big advertising campaign to promote our new toothpaste* **4** *fml* to help in the growth or development of: *Milk promotes health.* | *new efforts to promote the cause of world peace*

pro·mot·er /prə'məʊtəʳ/ *n* a person whose job is to promote events, activities, goods, etc. (PROMOTE (2,3))

pro·mo·tion /prə'məʊʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an) advancement in rank or position: *Congratulations on your promotion!* | *There are good chances of promotion in this firm.* **2** [C;U] (an) activity intended to help the development or success of something, esp. of a product for sale: *This year's sales promotions haven't been very successful.* | *a video promotion of a pop record* **3** [C] a product that is being promoted: *one of our latest promotions* —~**al** *adj*

prompt[1] /prɒmpt‖prɑːmpt/ *v* **1** [T] to cause or urge: *The sight of the ships prompted thoughts of his distant home.* | *What prompted that remark?* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *His evasive reply prompted me to ask another question.* **2** [I; T] to remind (an actor) of the next words in a speech —see also PROMPT[4] **3** [T] to help (a speaker who pauses) by suggesting how to continue: *to prompt a witness in court*

prompt[2] *adj* **1** (of an action) done quickly, at once, or at the right time: *Prompt payment of bills is greatly appreciated.* **2** [F] (of a person) **a** arriving at the right time; PUNCTUAL: *I can't understand it; she's usually very prompt.* **b** quick to take action: *She's always prompt to criticize other people's ideas.* | *He is always prompt in answering letters.* —~**ly** *adv* : *The performance will begin promptly at nine o'clock.* —~**ness** *n* [U] —~**itude** *fml*

prompt[3] *adv infml* exactly in regard to time: *The performance will start at seven o'clock prompt.*

prompt[4] *n* **1** a word or words spoken in prompting an actor **2** also **prompt·er** /'prɒmptəʳ‖'prɑːmp-/— a person who prompts actors

Proms /prɒmz‖prɑːmz/ [*the*+P] *BrE* see PROMENADE CONCERT

prom·ul·gate /'prɒməlgeɪt‖'prɑː-/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to cause (a law or religious rule) to be brought into effect by official public declaration **2** to spread (a belief, idea, etc.) widely —**-gator** *n* —**-gation** /ˌprɒməl'geɪʃən‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U]

pron *written abbrev. for:* PRONOUN

prone /prəʊn/ *adj* **1** [F+*to-v*/**to**] likely to suffer (usu. something undesirable): *People are more prone to make mistakes when they are tired.* | *Women are especially prone to this disease.* | *strike-prone industries* | *Mary's always hurting herself; she's very* **accident-prone**. **2** *fml* lying on one's front, face downwards: *They stepped over his prone body.* —compare PROSTRATE, SUPINE (1) —~**ness** *n* [U (**to**)]

prong /prɒŋ‖prɔːŋ/ *n* **1** a thin sharp-pointed piece or part, such as part of a fork or one of the branched horns of a deer **2 -pronged** /prɒŋd‖prɔːŋd/ **a** having the stated number of prongs: *a four-pronged fork* **b** (of an attack) coming from a stated number of different directions at the same time: *a two-pronged attack*

pro·nom·i·nal /prəʊˈnɒmɨnəl‖-ˈnɑː-/ *adj tech* of or like a pronoun —~**ly** *adv* : *a word used pronominally*

pro·noun /ˈprəʊnaʊn/ *n* a word that is used in place of a noun or a noun phrase, such as **he** instead of "Peter" or instead of "the man" —see also DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUN, PERSONAL PRONOUN

pro·nounce /prəˈnaʊns/ *v* **1** [T] to make the sound of (a letter, a word, etc.): *In the word "knew", the "k" is not pronounced.* | *How do you pronounce your name?* **2** [T+*obj*+*adj*/*n*] to declare, esp. officially or after consideration: *The doctor pronounced the man dead.* | *The priest said, "I now pronounce you man and wife."* **3** [I+*prep*] *esp. law* to give judgment: *The court pronounced against my claim to the land.* | (fig.) *She's too ready to pronounce on/upon matters of which she really knows very little.*

pro·nounce·a·ble /prəˈnaʊnsəbəl/ *adj* (of a sound, a word, etc.) that can be pronounced —opposite **unpronounceable**

pro·nounced /prəˈnaʊnst/ *adj* very strong or noticeable: *He has very pronounced ideas on everything.* | *a pronounced limp* —~**ly** /prəˈnaʊnsɨdli/ *adv*

pro·nounce·ment /prəˈnaʊnsmənt/ *n* a solemn declaration or statement: *The Pope made a pronouncement on the subject of the war.*

pron·to /ˈprɒntəʊ‖ˈprɑːn-/ *adv infml* at once; very quickly: *Bring the ladder over here(, and) pronto!*

pro·nun·ci·a·tion /prəˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] the way in which a language or a particular word is pronounced: *the right pronunciation* **2** [S;U] a particular person's way of pronouncing words or a language: *excellent pronunciation*

proof[1] /pruːf/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] (a) way of showing that something is true; facts, information, documents, etc., that prove something: *I believe what you say; I don't need any proof.* [+*that*] *Have you got any proof that you own this car/proof of ownership?* | *to produce conclusive/definite proof* | *scientific proof* —see also BURDEN OF PROOF **2** [C] a test or trial of quality, strength, etc.: *A soldier's courage is* **put to the proof** *in battle.* **3** [C] *tech* a test copy made of something printed, so that mistakes can be put right before the proper printing is done **4** [U or after *n*] *tech* the standard of strength of some kinds of alcoholic drink (compared with that of PROOF SPIRIT): *This gin is 15 per cent under proof.* **5** [C] *tech* **a** (in MATHEMATICS) a test made of the correctness of a calculation **b** (in GEOMETRY) the reasoning that shows a statement (THEOREM) to be true **6 the proof of the pudding is in the eating** it is only possible to tell if something is good or bad by testing, using, or experiencing it

proof[2] *adj* **1** [F+**against**] giving or having protection against something harmful or unwanted: *His honesty is proof against any temptation.* | (*in comb.*) *a bullet-proof vest* | *a waterproof coat* | *a soundproof room* | *an inflation-proof pension* —see also FOOLPROOF **2** [after *n*] (of certain types of alcoholic drink) of the stated alcoholic strength in comparison with some standard: *In the US, whiskey of 90 proof is 45% alcohol.*

proof[3] *v* [T (**against**)] to treat (esp. cloth) in order to give protection against something unwanted, esp. water

-proof see WORD FORMATION

proof·read /ˈpruːfˌriːd/ *v* **-read** /red/ [I;T] to read and correct the printer's proofs of (a book, etc.) —~**er** *n*

proof spir·it /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a standard mixture of alcohol and water with which the strength of certain alcoholic drinks is compared for the purposes of taxation

Proops /pruːps/, **Mar·jo·rie** /ˈmɑːdʒəri ‖ ˈmɑːr-/, **Marjorie** /mɑːdʒ ‖ mɑːrdʒ/ a well known English AGONY AUNT who writes regularly in the DAILY MIRROR

prop[1] /prɒp‖prɑːp/ *n* a support placed to hold up something heavy: *The roof of the tunnel was supported by wooden props.* | (fig.) *Her daughter was a prop to her during her illness.* —see also PIT PROP

prop[2] *v* **-pp-** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to support or keep in a leaning or resting position: *She propped up the baby's head by putting a pillow behind it.* | *Prop the gate open with a brick.* | *He propped his bicycle (up) against the fence.*

prop sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *sometimes derog* to help or give support to (often with money): *It is not the government's policy to prop up declining industries.*

prop[3] also **property** *fml*— *n* [*usu. pl.*] a small article, such as a weapon or piece of furniture, that is used on the stage in the acting of a play

prop[4] *n infml* an aircraft's PROPELLER

prop·a·gan·da /ˌprɒpəˈgændə‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* information that is spread in a planned or official way, esp. by a government, in order to influence public opinion: *Their speeches have been exposed as pure propaganda.* | *a massive propaganda campaign* | *anti-French propaganda* | *propaganda films/slogans*

prop·a·gan·dist /ˌprɒpəˈgændɨst‖ˌprɑː-/ *n usu. derog* a person who plans or spreads esp. political propaganda

prop·a·gan·dize also **-dise** *BrE* /ˌprɒpəˈgændaɪz‖ˌprɑː-/ *v* [I;T] *usu. derog* to spread propaganda in (a place) or to (people)

prop·a·gate /ˈprɒpəgeɪt‖ˈprɑː-/ *v* **1** [I] (of living things) to increase in number by producing young: *Most plants propagate by seed.* **2** [T] to cause to continue or increase by producing descendants: *Human beings propagate their species by sexual reproduction.* **3** [T] to cause to spread to a great number of people: *They started a newspaper to propagate their ideas.* —**-gator** *n* —**-gation** /ˌprɒpəˈgeɪʃən‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* [U]

pro·pane /ˈprəʊpeɪn/ *n* [U] a colourless gas used for cooking and heating

pro·pel /prəˈpel/ *v* **-ll-** [T] to move, drive, or push forward: *A sailing boat is propelled by wind.* | *a rocket-propelled grenade* —see also PROPULSION

pro·pel·lant, -lent /prəˈpelənt/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an) explosive for firing a bullet or ROCKET **2** (a) gas pressed into a small space in a bottle, which drives out the contents of the bottle when the pressure is taken away —**propellant, propellent** *adj*

pro·pel·ler /prəˈpelər/ *n* an apparatus for producing movement in a ship or aircraft, consisting of two or more blades fixed to a central bar that is turned at high speed by an engine —see picture at WINDMILL

pro·pel·ling pen·cil /·ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a pencil in which the stick of LEAD[4] (2) is pushed forward by an apparatus inside the pencil as the lead is used up

pro·pen·si·ty /prəˈpensɨti/ *n* [(**for, to, towards**)] *fml* a natural tendency towards a particular usu. undesirable kind of behaviour: *a propensity for upsetting people* [+*to-v*] *a propensity to spend too much money*

prop·er[1] /ˈprɒpəʳ‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] right; suitable; correct: *She's too ill to be nursed at home; she needs proper medical attention at a hospital.* | *That's not the proper way to stop the machine.* | *without proper authorization* | *the proper role of the press* **2** *sometimes derog* (paying great attention to what is) socially correct or acceptable: *That short dress isn't really proper for wearing to a funeral.* | *Why are you surprised? It's only* **right and proper** *that his wife should inherit all his money.* —see also IMPROPER, PROPRIETY **3** [A] *BrE infml* real; actual: *The little boy wanted a proper dog, not a toy dog.* **4** [after *n*] in its actual, most limited meaning; itself: *Many people call themselves Londoners though they live outside the city proper.* **5** [A *no comp.*] *infml, esp. BrE* (often of something unpleasant or undesirable) thorough; complete: *We've got ourselves into a proper mess.* | *I felt a proper fool.* **6** [F+**to**] *fml* belonging only or especially to; natural to: *to wear clothes proper to a tropical climate* —see also PROPERLY

proper[2] *adv sl, esp. dial* very; completely: *He drove the car into a wall and wrecked it, good and proper!*

proper frac·tion /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a FRACTION in which the number above the line is smaller than the one below it: *⅓ and*

⅛ *are proper fractions.* —compare IMPROPER FRACTION

prop·er·ly /ˈprɒpəli‖ˈprɑːpərli/ *adv* **1** suitably; correctly: *I'm learning Italian, but I still can't speak it properly.* | *She'd only just got out of bed, and wasn't properly dressed.* **2** really; actually; exactly: *I'm not, properly speaking, a nurse, as I haven't been trained, but I've looked after many sick people.* **3** *infml, esp. BrE* completely; thoroughly: *I'm properly muddled!*

proper noun /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **proper name**— *n* (in grammar) a noun that is the name of a single particular thing or person, and is spelt with a CAPITAL letter: *"James", "London", and "China" are proper nouns in English.* —compare COMMON NOUN

prop·er·tied /ˈprɒpətid‖ˈprɑːpər-/ *adj* [A] owning a lot of property, esp. land: *the propertied classes*

prop·er·ty /ˈprɒpəti‖ˈprɑːpərti/ *n* **1** [U] something which is owned; possession(s): *That car is my property; you mustn't use it without my permission.* | *The police found some stolen property in the thief's house.* | *This machine is the property of the government/is government property.* **2** [U] land, buildings, or both together: *The city is growing and property in the centre is becoming more expensive.* | *a property developer* (=someone who makes money by buying and selling property) **3** [C] a building, a piece of land, or both together. This word is used esp. by lawyers and ESTATE AGENTS: *Several properties in this street are for sale.* **4** [C] a stated quality, power, or effect that belongs naturally to something: *Many plants have medicinal properties.* | *Oil has the property of floating on water.* **5** [C *usu. pl.*] *fml for* PROP[3] **6** [U] ownership, with its rights and duties according to the law: *Most societies have accepted the idea of private property.* —see also LOST PROPERTY, PERSONAL PROPERTY, REAL PROPERTY

property tax /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* a tax based on the value of someone's house

proph·e·cy *BrE* ‖ also **prophesy** *AmE* /ˈprɒfəsi‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] a statement telling something that will happen in the future, esp. one based on one's personal feelings rather than on any proof: *to make a prophecy* [+*that*] *The teacher's prophecy that the boy would become famous was later fulfilled.* **2** [U] the telling of things that will happen in the future

proph·e·sy /ˈprɒfəsaɪ‖ˈprɑː-/ *v* [I;T] to make a statement expressing one's beliefs about (what will happen in) the future; FORECAST: *The soothsayers prophesied war.* [+*that*] *She prophesied that there would be a bad winter.* [+*wh-*] *I wouldn't like to prophesy who will win the election.*

proph·et /ˈprɒfət‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** (in the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim religions) a man who believes that he is directed by God to make known and explain God's will and/or to lead or teach a religion: *the prophet Isaiah* **2** *sometimes* **proph·et·ess** /ˈprɒfətes ‖ˈprɑːfətəs/ *fem.*— a person who introduces and teaches some new idea: *a prophet of monetarist economics* **3** a person who claims to be able to tell the course of future events: *a* **prophet of doom** (=someone who always says that bad things will happen)

Prophet [*the*] Muhammad, who formed the Muslim religion: *followers of the Prophet* (=Muslims)

pro·phet·ic /prəˈfetɪk/ also **pro·phet·i·cal** /-kəl/— *adj* [(**of**)] correctly telling of things that will happen in the future; like or being a prophecy: *a prophetic remark* —**-ically** /kli/ *adv*

Proph·ets /ˈprɒfəts‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** the Jewish holy men whose writings form part of the Bible **2** the writings themselves, which together with certain other writings form the second and last part of the Old Testament

pro·phy·lac·tic[1] /ˌprɒfəˈlæktɪk◂‖ˌprɑː-/ *adj fml or tech* intended to prevent disease —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

prophylactic[2] *n tech esp. AmE, often euph* something prophylactic, esp. a CONDOM sold supposedly for the prevention of VENEREAL DISEASE

pro·phy·lax·is /ˌprɒfəˈlæksəs‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* **-laxes** /ˈlæksiːz/ [C;U] *tech* (a) treatment for preventing disease

pro·pin·qui·ty /prəˈpɪŋkwəti/ *n* [U (**of, to**)] *fml* nearness in space or relationship

pro·pi·ti·ate /prəˈpɪʃieɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to win the favour of (someone who is angry or unfriendly) by some pleasing act —**-ation** /prəˌpɪʃiˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U (**for**)]

pro·pi·ti·a·to·ry /prəˈpɪʃiətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj fml* intended to propitiate: *a propitiatory gift of flowers*

pro·pi·tious /prəˈpɪʃəs/ *adj fml* [(**for, to, towards**)] advantageous; favourable: *a propitious sign* | *It wasn't really a propitious moment to raise the subject of my pay rise.* —~**ly** *adv*

pro·po·nent /prəˈpəʊnənt/ *n* [(**of**)] a person who supports or argues in favour of something; ADVOCATE: *an enthusiastic proponent of yoga* | *one of its keenest proponents* —compare OPPONENT (2)

pro·por·tion[1] /prəˈpɔːʃən‖-ɔːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the correct relationship between the size, position, and shape of the different parts of a whole: *This drawing isn't* **in proportion;** *the man is larger than the house.* —opposite **disproportion** **2** [C;U] the compared relationship between two things in regard to size, amount, importance, etc.: *The proportion of men to women in the population has changed in recent years.* | *The tax increases* **in proportion to** *the amount you earn.* | *Mix the paint* **in the proportion of** *one part of paint to two parts of water.* | (fig.) *Don't panic about it; try not to lose your* **sense of proportion**. (=ability to judge what is most important) —compare RATIO **3** [C (**of**)] a part or share, esp. when measured and compared with the whole: *"What proportion of your wages do you spend on rent?" "About a quarter."* | *A large/high/increasing proportion of the children come to school by train.* **4** [U] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) equalness of relationship between two sets of numbers: *The statement "as 6 is to 4, so is 24 to 16" is a statement of proportion.* **5 in/out of proportion** (not) according to real importance; (not) sensibly: *When you're angry you don't always see things in proportion.* **6 out of (all) proportion to** (much) too great as compared with: *The price of this article is out of all proportion to its value.* —see also PROPORTIONS

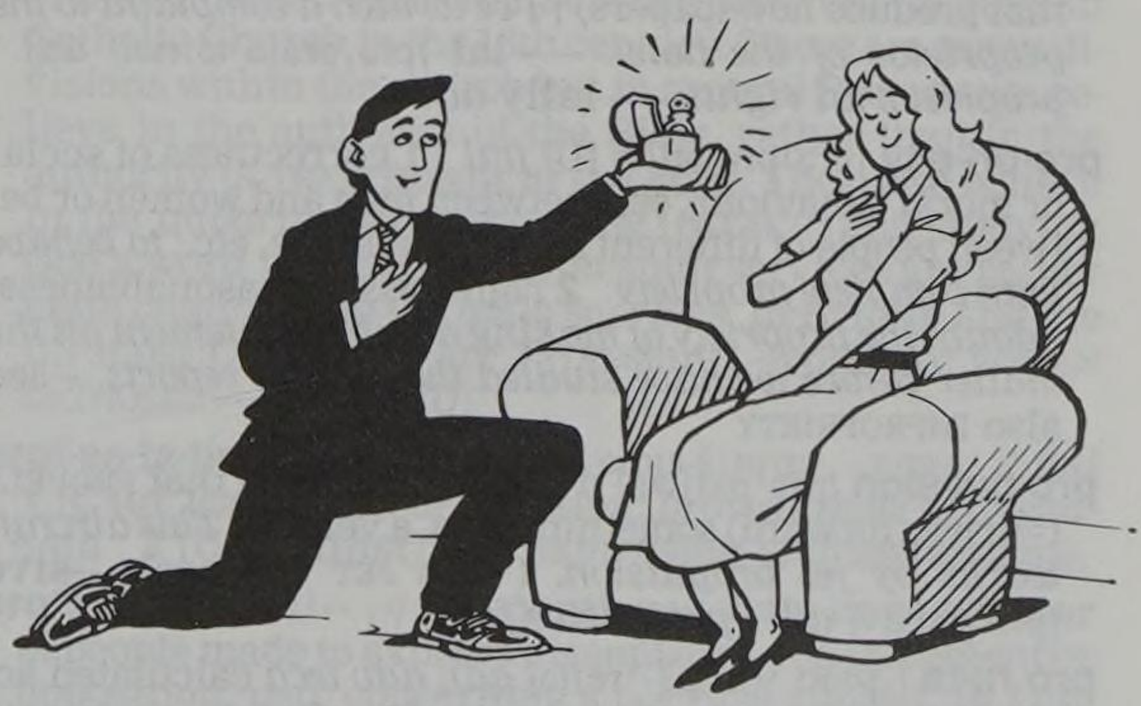
proportion[2] *v* [T (**to**)] *fml* to make in or put into correct or suitable PROPORTION[1] (1,2): *to proportion one's expenditure to one's income* | *a well-proportioned room*

pro·por·tion·al /prəˈpɔːʃənəl‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] in PROPORTION[1] (2): *The payment he will have to make will be proportional to the amount of damage he has done.* **2** concerning PROPORTION[1] (2) —opposite **disproportional** —~**ly** *adv*

proportional rep·re·sen·ta·tion /·ˌ··· ···ˈ··/ also **PR** *infml*— *n* [U] a system of voting in elections by which all political parties, small as well as large, are represented in the governing body according to the proportion of votes they receive, rather than having to get more votes than any other party, in each voting area. In Britain, the LIBERAL DEMOCRAT party is strongly in favour of changing to this system. —compare FIRST PAST THE POST

pro·por·tion·ate /prəˈpɔːʃənət‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* [(**to**)] in PROPORTION[1] (1,2): *You will have to work an extra three days, but there will be a proportionate increase in your pay.* —opposite **disproportionate** —~**ly** *adv*

pro·por·tions /prəˈpɔːʃənz‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [P] the size and shape of something: *The church is a building of fine proportions.* | (*humor*) *Mary finds it difficult to fit her ample proportions into my little car!* (=she is rather fat)



pro·pos·al /prəˈpəʊzəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] a plan or suggestion; (an) act of proposing: *The French have put forward a proposal for a joint project.* | *peace proposals* [+*to-v*/*that*] *The proposal to close the hospital/that the hospital should be closed was rejected by a large majority.* **2** [C] an offer of marriage —compare PROPOSITION[1] (4); see REFUSE (USAGE)

pro·pose /prə'pəʊz/ *v* **1** [T] to put forward for consideration (a possible course of action, a plan to be voted on by a meeting, etc.); suggest: *What do you propose we do?* | *The company has proposed a new formula for settling the dispute.* | *I wish to propose Charles Robson for membership of the club.* | *to propose a motion* [+*v-ing*|*that*] *I propose delaying our decision until the next meeting*|*that we delay our decision until the next meeting.* —see also SECOND⁴ **2** [T] *fml* to have formed a plan for; intend: *We propose an early holiday in the spring.* [+*to-v*] *I propose to go to London on Tuesday.* | *How do you propose to finance this venture?* **3** [I (**to**);T] (usu. of a man) to make an offer of (marriage). In Britain and the US it is the custom for a man to propose to a woman. The man is supposed to kneel in front of the woman and ask her to marry him. On the 29th of February (the last day in February in a LEAP YEAR), however, a woman may by custom propose to a man. These customs are not followed as much as they used to be. **4** [T] *fml* to ask a social gathering to offer (a wish for success, happiness, etc.) to someone, while raising a glass of wine which is afterwards drunk (usu. in the phrases **propose a toast**/**propose someone's health**) —**-poser** *n*

prop·o·si·tion¹ /ˌprɒpə'zɪʃən‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] an unproved statement in which an opinion or judgment is expressed **2** [C] a suggested (business) offer, arrangement, or settlement: *We made him a proposition: he would join us, and we would support his company.* | *I have a proposition to put to you ...* **3** [S] *infml* a person or situation of the stated type that must be dealt with: *We could build a tunnel instead of a bridge, but that's a much more difficult proposition.* **4** [C] *euph* a suggested offer to have sex with someone: *He made me a proposition.* —compare PROPOSAL (2) **5** [C] *tech* (in GEOMETRY) a truth that must be proved, or a question to which the answer must be found — **~al** *adj*

proposition² *v* [T] *infml* to make a PROPOSITION¹ (esp. 4) to (someone)

Proposition 13 /ˌprɒpəzɪʃən θɜː'tiːn‖ˌprɑːpəzɪʃən θɜːr-/ also **Prop 13**— a law which was voted on directly and passed by California voters in 1978 rather than by California state LEGISLATURE (law-making body), which reduced taxes on property. The passage of Proposition 13 in California led voters in other states to vote for similar laws and is seen by some people as the first of many tax cuts introduced by the state and national government in the 1980s.

pro·pound /prə'paʊnd/ *v* [T] *fml* to put forward as a question or matter for consideration: *to propound a problem*|*a theory*

pro·pri·e·ta·ry /prə'praɪətəri‖-teri/ *adj* **1** privately owned or controlled: *proprietary brands of toothpaste* **2** of or like an owner: *Jane has rather a proprietary manner with her boyfriend.*

pro·pri·e·ties /prə'praɪətiz/ *n* [*the*+P] *fml* the accepted rules of proper social behaviour: *to observe the proprieties*

pro·pri·e·tor /prə'praɪətəʳ/ **pro·pri·e·tress** /prə'praɪətrɨs/ *fem.*— *n* an owner of a business, an invention, etc.: *newspaper proprietors* (=people who own the businesses that produce newspapers) | *I've written a complaint to the proprietor of the hotel.* —**~ial** /prəˌpraɪə'tɔːriəl/ *adj* : *proprietorial rights* —**~ially** *adv*

pro·pri·e·ty /prə'praɪəti/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** correctness of social or moral behaviour, esp. between men and women or between people of different social ranks, age, etc.: *to behave with complete propriety* **2** rightness or reasonableness: *I doubt the propriety of making a public statement on the matter before we have studied the official reports.* —see also IMPROPRIETY

pro·pul·sion /prə'pʌlʃən/ *n* [U] *tech* the force that PROPELS (=drives forward) something, esp. a vehicle: *This aircraft works by jet propulsion.* (=has JET engines) —**-sive** /prə'pʌlsɪv/ *adj* : *propulsive force*

pro ra·ta /ˌprəʊ 'rɑːtə‖-'reɪtə/ *adj, adv tech* calculated according to the rate, fair share, etc., of each: *a pro rata increase*

pro·rate /prəʊ'reɪt/ *v* [T] *AmE* to calculate (a charge, price, etc.) according to a larger amount divided into parts: *Your rent will be prorated from the 21st of the month, since that's when you moved in.*

pro·rogue /prəʊ'rəʊg, prə-/ *v* [T] *tech* to bring to an end a set of meetings of (a parliament) until a stated day —**-rogation** /ˌprəʊrə'geɪʃən‖ˌprəʊrəʊ-/ *n* [C;U]

pro·sa·ic /prəʊ'zeɪ-ɪk, prə-/ *adj* **1** dull; uninteresting: *a prosaic job*|*speech* **2** lacking feeling and imagination: *He's too prosaic to think of sending me flowers.* —**~ally** /kli/ *adv*

pros and cons /ˌprəʊz ən 'kɒnz‖-'kɑːnz/ *n* [*the*+P] the reasons for and against something: *to consider all the pros and cons of a matter before reaching a decision*

pro·sce·ni·um /prə'siːniəm, prəʊ-/ *n* **1** the front arch of a theatre stage, where a curtain may be lowered **2** the part of a stage that comes forward beyond this

pro·scribe /prəʊ'skraɪb/ *v* [T] **1** *fml* to forbid (esp. something dangerous or harmful), esp. by law **2** *old use* to state publicly that (a citizen) is outside the protection of the law —compare PRESCRIBE —**-scription** /prəʊ'skrɪpʃən, prə-/ *n* [C;U]

prose /prəʊz/ *n* **1** [U] written language in its usual form, as opposed to POETRY: *Newspapers are written in prose.* | *He writes a very clear simple prose.* | *a prose translation of Homer's epic poems* —*compare* POETIC **2** [C] *BrE* a student's exercise in translating a piece of writing into a foreign language: *I've got two French proses to do.* —see also PROSY

pros·e·cute /'prɒsɪkjuːt‖'prɑː-/ *v* **1** [I;T (**for**)] to bring a criminal charge against (someone) in a court of law: *He was prosecuted for stealing.* | *The police have decided not to prosecute (him).* **2** [I] (of a lawyer) to represent in court the person who is bringing a criminal charge against someone —compare DEFEND (3) **3** [T] *fml* to continue steadily (esp. something that needs effort); carry out: *to prosecute an investigation*

pros·e·cu·tion /ˌprɒsɪ'kjuːʃən‖ˌprɑː-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an example of) prosecuting or being prosecuted by law **2** [*the*+*sing./pl. v*] the group of people who represent the person bringing a criminal charge against someone in court: *a witness for the prosecution* | *The prosecution is*|*are trying to show that he was seen near the scene of the crime.* —compare DEFENCE (4) **3** [U] *fml* the carrying out of something that needs to be done: *She has to travel a great deal in the prosecution of her duties.*

pros·e·cu·tor /'prɒsɪkjuːtəʳ‖'prɑː-/ *n* a person (often a lawyer) who prosecutes someone —see also PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

pros·e·lyte /'prɒsɨlaɪt‖'prɑː-/ *n fml* a person who has just been persuaded to join a religious group, political party, etc.

pros·e·lyt·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'prɒsələtaɪz‖'prɑː-/ *v* [I; T] *fml, sometimes derog* to (try to) persuade (someone) to join a religious group, political party, etc. —**-izer** *n*

Pros·er·pine /'prɒsəpaɪn‖'prɑːsər-/ see PERSEPHONE

pros·o·dy /'prɒsədi‖'prɑː-/ *n* [U] (the study of) the rules by which the patterns of sounds and beats are arranged in poetry —**-dic** /prə'sɒdɪk‖-'sɑː-/ *adj* [A *no comp.*]

pros·pect¹ /'prɒspekt‖'prɑː-/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] reasonable hope of something happening: *I'm afraid there's not much*|*I don't see much prospect of this being finished before the weekend.* | *a job with excellent prospects* (=chances of future success) **2** [S;U (**of**)] something which is probable soon: *She doesn't like the prospect of having to live alone.* | *not a very cheerful prospect* | *a lot of hard work* **in prospect** (=going to be necessary) **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a wide distant view: *From the top of the hill there's a beautiful prospect over the valley.* **4** [C] a person who may perhaps buy one's goods, accept a job one is offering, etc.: *I interviewed three likely prospects.* —see also PROSPECTIVE

pros·pect² /prə'spekt‖'prɑːspekt/ *v* [I;T (**for**)] to examine (land, an area, etc.) in order to find gold, silver, oil, etc. —**~or** *n* : *Thousands of prospectors flocked to the Klondike during the great Gold Rush.*

pro·spec·tive /prə'spektɪv/ *adj* expected or intended; likely to be or become: *a prospective buyer for the house*

pro·spec·tus /prə'spektəs/ *n* a printed statement describing the advantages of a college, a new business, etc. — compare LISTING PARTICULARS

pros·per /'prɒspəʳ‖'prɑː-/ *v* **1** [I] to become successful and esp. rich: *He*|*His business prospered.* **2** [I] to develop favourably or in a healthy way; grow well; THRIVE: *The children seem to be prospering under their care.* **3** [T] *old use* to cause to succeed: *May the gods prosper our city!*

pro·sper·i·ty /prɒˈsperɨti‖prɑː-/ *n* [U] good fortune and success, esp. in money matters: *We wish you health, happiness, and prosperity.*

pros·per·ous /ˈprɒspərəs‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* successful and rich – **~ly** *adv*

Prost /prɒst‖prəʊst/, **Al·ain** /ˈælæn‖æˈlæŋ/ (1955–) a French racing driver who was world CHAMPION in 1985–86 and has had more GRAND PRIX (=an international car race) wins than any other driver ever

pros·tate /ˈprɒsteɪt‖ˈprɑː-/ also **prostate gland** /ˈ·· ·/– *n* an organ in the body of male animals that produces a liquid in which SPERMATOZOA (seeds) are carried

pros·the·sis /prɒsˈθiːsɨs‖prɑːs-/ *n tech* an artificial limb, tooth, or other body part to take the place of a missing one

pros·ti·tute[1] /ˈprɒstɨtjuːt‖ˈprɑːstɨtuːt/ **male prostitute** *masc.*– *n* a person, esp. a woman, who earns money by having sex with anyone who will pay for it. The STEREOTYPE of a prostitute is of a woman wearing a short skirt, FISHNET STOCKINGS, HIGH HEELS, and a lot of MAKE-UP.

prostitute[2] *v* [T] *fml* **1** to put to a dishonourable use for money: *He never prostituted his great acting talent by appearing in television advertisements.* **2** to give the services of (oneself) as a prostitute

pros·ti·tu·tion /ˌprɒstɨˈtjuːʃən‖ˌprɑːstɨˈtuːʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the act or trade of being a prostitute. In Britain, since 1959, the law allows the practice of prostitution but it does not allow a person to openly offer him or herself as a prostitute, or to provide a prostitute for someone else. In the US, prostitution is legal only in the state of Nevada, but it is practised everywhere. Prostitution is sometimes described as "the oldest profession in the world": *a police clampdown on prostitution* **2** [(**of**)] *fml* dishonourable misuse, esp. for money

pros·trate[1] /ˈprɒstreɪt‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj* **1** lying on one's front, face downwards, esp. in obedience or worship –compare PRONE (2) **2** having lost all strength, courage, and ability to act: *She was prostrate with grief.* | *a prostrate* (=defeated and powerless) *nation* –**tration** /prɒˈstreɪʃən ‖prɑː-/ *n* [C;U] : *Ceremonial prostration is part of Muslim prayer.*

pros·trate[2] /prɒˈstreɪt‖ˈprɑːstreɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to put in a prostrate position: *They prostrated themselves before the king.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to cause to lose strength, courage, etc.; make PROSTRATE[1] (2): *a prostrating illness*

pros·y /ˈprəʊzi/ *adj* saying too much in a dull, tiring manner –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

pro·tag·o·nist /prəʊˈtægənɨst/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] the leader or a noticeable supporter of some (new) idea or purpose: *Friedman was one of the chief protagonists of monetarist economic policies.* **2** the chief character in a play or story **3** someone taking part esp. in a sports competition – compare ANTAGONIST

pro·te·an /ˈprəʊtiən, prəʊˈtiːən/ *adj lit* continually changing; able to appear in various forms or characters (from Proteus, a Greek sea god who could change his shape)

pro·tect /prəˈtekt/ *v* [T] **1** [(**against, from**)] to keep safe, esp. by guarding or covering: *The hard shell of a nut protects the seed inside it.* | *A line of forts was built along the border to protect the country against attack.* | *He raised his arm to protect his face from the blow.* | *These rare birds are protected by special laws – they are a* **protected species**. | *to protect one's reputation* **2** to help (industry) by taxing foreign goods –see also PROTECTIONISM **3** [(**against**)] to guard (property, etc.) against possible future loss, damage, etc., by means of insurance –see also PROTECTIVE

pro·tec·tion /prəˈtekʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of protecting or state of being protected: *Her thin coat gave|provided little protection against the cold.* | *After the threat on her life, she was offered police protection.* | *consumer protection* **2** [S] something that protects: *Shoes are a protection for the feet.* **3** [U] also **protection mon·ey** /·ˈ·· ˌ··/– *infml euph* money paid to people who run a protection racket

pro·tec·tion·is·m /prəˈtekʃənɪzəm/ *n* [U] *often derog* the system of protecting one's own country's trade, esp. by TARIFFS –**-ist** *n*

protection rack·et /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n infml* a system by which criminals demand money from the owners of shops, restaurants, etc., for protection against damage that would be caused by the criminals themselves if the owners refused to pay

pro·tec·tive /prəˈtektɪv/ *adj* **1** [A *no comp.*] that gives protection: *protective clothing* | *protective colouring on an insect's body* (=making it difficult for enemies to see) | *a protective tariff* (=tax on foreign goods) **2** [(**towards**)] wishing to protect: *She's too protective|overprotective towards her children; she should let them be more independent.* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

protective cus·to·dy /·ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the state of being kept by the police for one's own safety

pro·tec·tor /prəˈtektəʳ/ *n* **1** a person or thing that protects: *a chest protector* **2** (*usu. cap.*) (in former times) a prince or nobleman appointed to govern England during the childhood or illness of the king

Protector [*the*] the official title of Oliver Cromwell and Richard Cromwell during the period (the **Protectorate**) when they ruled Britain (1653–1659)

pro·tec·tor·ate /prəˈtektərɨt/ *n* **1** a country controlled and protected by a more powerful nation that takes charge esp. of its defence and foreign affairs **2** also **pro·tec·tor·ship** /prəˈtektəʃɪp‖-ˈtektər-/– the time during which a PROTECTOR (2) governs

prot·é·gé /ˈprɒtɨʒeɪ‖ˈprəʊ-/ **protégée** (*same pronunciation*) *fem.*– *n* a person who is guided and helped by someone of influence or power: *This young politician is the prime minister's protégé.*

pro·tein /ˈprəʊtiːn/ *n* [C;U] any of many substances present in such foods as meat, eggs, and beans that help to build up the body and keep it healthy: *a high-protein diet*

pro tem /ˌprəʊ ˈtem/ *adv* now but only for a short time; for the present only

pro·test[1] /ˈprəʊtest/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a) complaint or strong expression of disapproval, disagreement, opposition, etc.: *The local people have made a strong protest to|registered their protest with the minister about the new airport.* | *a protest march|vote* | *They refused to buy the company's goods in protest against|as a protest against the way it treated its workers.* | *He went to bed* **without protest**. (=calmly) **2 under protest** unwillingly and feeling that something is not just: *I would like it on record that I signed under protest.*

pro·test[2] /prəˈtest/ *v* **1** [I (**about, against, at**)] to express one's disagreement, feeling of unfairness, annoyance, etc.: *The footballers all protested bitterly to the referee (about his decision).* | *There was a large crowd in the square, protesting against the war.* | *He protested vehemently as they took him away.* **2** [T] to declare in complaint or opposition: *She protested her innocence.* [+*that*] *She protested that she knew nothing about the stolen goods.* **3** [T] *AmE* to make a protest against: *a large crowd protesting the war* **4 the lady doth protest too much, methinks** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, used when saying that someone seems to be denying (DENY) something too strongly, which suggests that it might be true – **~er** *n* : *Police arrested several of the peace protesters.*

Prot·es·tant /ˈprɒtɨstənt‖ˈprɑː-/ *n, adj* (a member) of a part of the Christian church that separated from the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century. There are many divisions within the church but in general Protestants believe in the authority of the Bible, rather than in the authority of TRADITION or of the Pope. They also believe in the importance of preaching (PREACH) and studying God's word in the Bible. Protestant services are rather plain compared to Catholic services. In Britain and the US most Christians are Protestant. –compare ROMAN CATHOLIC – **~ism** *n* [U]

prot·es·ta·tion /ˌprɒtɨˈsteɪʃən ˌprəʊ-‖ˌprɑː-, ˌprəʊ-/ *n fml* **1** [C (**of**)] a solemn declaration: *protestations of friendship* **2** [U (**against**)] the expression of disagreement

protest march /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a march usu. by a large number of people made to express disapproval, disagreement or opposition, usu. concerning a pol·tical subject. In London, protest marches often end with a large meeting in Hyde Park where people make speeches. In the US, protest marches usu. take place near a building or place which people think of in connection with what they are protesting about, e.g. an EMBASSY or government building. Protest marches held in Washington, D.C., often go to the Capitol or the White House. –see also VIETNAM WAR

protest song /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a song written and sung to express disapproval, disagreement or opposition, usu. concerning a social or political subject, e.g. the songs against war of the 1960s by Bob Dylan and others —see also VIETNAM WAR

proto- see WORD FORMATION

pro·to·col /ˈprəʊtəkɒl‖-kɔːl/ *n* **1** [U] the ceremonial system of fixed rules and accepted behaviour used esp. by representatives of governments on official occasions: *Protocol demands that the queen meet him at the airport.* | *a breach of* (=failure to follow) *diplomatic protocol* **2** [C] *tech* an established method of connecting computers or electronic equipment so that they can exchange DATA: *We have to use a different protocol with this new modem.*

pro·ton /ˈprəʊtɒn‖-tɑːn/ *n* a very small piece of matter that carries POSITIVE electricity and that together with the NEUTRON forms the NUCLEUS (=central part) of an atom —see also ELECTRON

pro·to·plas·m /ˈprəʊtəplæzəm/ *n* [U] the colourless jelly-like living substance from which all plants and creatures are formed

pro·to·type /ˈprəʊtətaɪp/ *n* [(**of**)] the first form of something, esp. of a machine or industrial product, from which all later forms develop, sometimes with improvements: *the prototype of a new car*

pro·to·zo·a /ˌprəʊtəˈzəʊə/ *n* [P] very small single-celled living things that can be seen only under a microscope

pro·to·zo·an, -on /ˌprəʊtəˈzəʊən/ *n* a single member of the protozoa —**protozoan** *adj*

pro·tract /prəˈtrækt‖prəʊ-/ *v* [T] to make the time during which (something) lasts long or longer, often without good reason: *a protracted argument* | *protracted pay negotiations* —compare PROLONG — **~ion** /ˈtrækʃən/ *n* [U]

pro·trac·tor /prəˈtræktəʳ‖prəʊ-/ *n* an instrument, usu. in the form of a half-circle, used for measuring and drawing angles —see picture at MATHEMATICS

pro·trude /prəˈtruːd‖prəʊ-/ *v* [I (**from**)] to stick out from a place or through a surface: *He glimpsed a gun protruding from the man's pocket.* | *protruding teeth* —compare OBTRUDE

pro·tru·sion /prəˈtruːʒən‖prəʊ-/ *n* **1** [C] something that protrudes **2** [U] the act of protruding

pro·tu·ber·ance /prəˈtjuːbərəns‖prəʊˈtuː-/ *n fml* a swelling; BULGE: *protuberances on a flower stem*

pro·tu·ber·ant /prəˈtjuːbərənt‖prəʊˈtuː-/ *adj* swelling or curving outwards: *a protuberant stomach* — **~ly** *adv*

proud /praʊd/ *adj* **1** *apprec* showing proper and reasonable respect for oneself: *They're poor but proud.* | *too proud to accept money from the state* **2** *derog* having too high an opinion of oneself and one's own importance; ARROGANT: *Lord Ponsonby is so proud he won't even speak to people like us.* | *You're really proud of yourself, aren't you?* **3** [(**of**)] having, expressing, or causing personal satisfaction and pleasure in something connected with oneself: *Tom is very proud of his new car.* | *The factory's safety record is something it can be proud of.* [F+*to-v*] *She was proud to be invited to speak.* [F+(*that*)] *We are very proud that a pupil from our school has won the prize.* | *It was a proud day for her parents when she qualified as a doctor.* —see also HOUSE-PROUD **4** *tech, esp. BrE* sticking out above a surface or surrounding area **5 do someone proud** *infml* to treat someone, esp. a guest, splendidly —see also PRIDE — **~ly** *adv*

Proust /pruːst/, **Mar·cel** /ˈmɑːsel‖mɑːrˈsel/ (1871–1922) a French writer, considered to be one of the greatest writers of modern times. His great work, translated into English, is *Remembrance of Things Past* (1922–32), which consists of seven NOVELS and is a detailed study of society.

prove /pruːv/ *v* **proved** /pruːvd/, **proved** also **proven** /ˈpruːvən/ *esp. AmE* **1** [T] to show to be true by means of facts, documents, information, etc.; give proof of: *evidence that proves his innocence* | *In order to prove her point, she showed them the latest sales figures.* [+(*that*)] *The fingerprints on the gun prove conclusively that she was the murderer.* [+*obj*+*adj*] *They prove her (to be) guilty.* —see also DISPROVE **2** [L;T] to show (oneself or itself) afterwards or in the course of time or experience, etc., to be: [+*adj*/*n*] *These revelations could prove highly embarrassing for the government.* | *Perhaps the book will prove (to be) useful, after all.* | *On the long journey, he proved a most amusing companion.* [+*obj*+*n*/*adj*] *He proved himself (to be) an amusing companion.* **3** [T] *law* to show that (a WILL[2] (5)) has been properly made —**provable** *adj* — **provably** *adv*

prov·en /ˈpruːvən; *ScotE* ˈprəʊvən/ *adj* **1** [A] also **proved**— *apprec* tested and shown to be true: *a man of proven ability* —opposite **unproven** **2 not proven** (in the Scottish legal system) when it has not been proved beyond doubt that someone has broken the law and they are therefore set free

prov·e·nance /ˈprɒvənəns‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* (the stated place of) origin: *Gunpowder is now considered to be of Chinese provenance.*

Prov·en·çal /ˌprɒvɒnˈsɑːl‖ˌprɑːvɑːn-/ *n, adj* (a person or language) of Provence, SE France

Provençale, Provençal /ˌprɒvɒnˈsɑːl◂‖ˌprɑːvɑːn-/ *adj* [*after n*] cooked with oil, GARLIC, HERBS and usu. TOMATOes

Pro·vence /prɒˈvɒns, prə-‖prəˈvɑːns/ an area in SE France on the Mediterranean Sea known for producing wine, fruit and vegetables, and for tourism. Its main towns are Nice and Marseilles.

prov·en·der /ˈprɒvɪndəʳ‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* [U] **1** *old-fash* dry food for horses and cattle **2** *infml, often humor* food for people

prov·erb /ˈprɒvɜːb‖ˈprɑːvɜːrb/ *n* a short well-known, supposedly wise, saying usu. in simple language: *"Don't put all your eggs in one basket" is a proverb.*

pro·ver·bi·al /prəˈvɜːbiəl‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** of a proverb: *a proverbial expression* **2** [A] *infml* spoken of in a popular saying or comparison: *He's got more lives than the proverbial cat!* (cats are often said to have nine lives, meaning that they often narrowly escape death) **3** very widely known and spoken of; undoubted: *His generosity is proverbial.*

pro·ver·bi·al·ly /prəˈvɜːbiəli‖-ɜːr-/ *adv* as is widely known or believed: *The Scots are proverbially careful with money.*

Prov·erbs /ˈprɒvɜːbz‖ˈprɑːvɜːrbz/ in the Bible a collection of proverbs believed to be the work of Solomon, forming part of the Old Testament

pro·vide /prəˈvaɪd/ *v* [T] **1** [(**for**)] to cause or arrange for (someone) to have or use (something needed or useful); supply: *The course is free but you have to provide your own books.* | *The hotel provides a shoe-cleaning service for its residents.* [+*obj*+**with**] *These letters should provide us with all the information we need.* | *Senior members of the government are provided with research assistants.* —see SPREAD (USAGE) **2** [+*that*; ~~*obj*~~] *fml* (of a law, rule, agreement, etc.) to state a special arrangement that must be fulfilled: *The law provides that ancient buildings must be preserved by the government.*

provide against sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to make arrangements in order to avoid (a danger) **2** *fml* (of a law, rule, etc.) to forbid

provide for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to support; supply with the things necessary for life: *He has five children to provide for.* **2** to make the necessary future arrangements for: *to provide for every eventuality* (=for whatever might happen) [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *The plans provide for road traffic increasing to twice its present volume.* **3** (of a law, rule, etc.) to allow; make possible: *The possibility of the book being translated is provided for in your contract.*

pro·vid·ed /prəˈvaɪdɪd/ also **provided that, providing, providing that**— *conj* **1** if: *Provided (that) there is no opposition, we shall hold the meeting here.* **2** and only if; on condition that: *I will go, (always) provided*/*providing (that) you go too.*

prov·i·dence /ˈprɒvɪdəns‖ˈprɑː-/ *n* **1** [S;U] (*often cap.*) (an act or event showing) God's care or the kindness of fate (often in the phrase **divine providence**): *It seemed like providence that the doctor happened to be passing just at the time of the accident.* **2** [U] *old use* the quality of being provident

Providence the capital city of the state of Rhode Island, NE US

prov·i·dent /ˈprɒvɪdənt‖ˈprɑː-/ *adj apprec* careful and sensible in providing for future needs, esp. by saving or storing —opposite **improvident** — **~ly** *adv*

prov·i·den·tial /ˌprɒvɪˈdenʃəl◂‖ˌprɑː-/ *adj fml* happening just when needed; lucky —**-tially** *adv*

pro·vid·er /prə'vaɪdəʳ/ *n* a person who provides, esp. one who supports a family

pro·vid·ing /prə'vaɪdɪŋ/ also **providing that** /·'·· ·/— *conj* PROVIDED

prov·ince /'prɒvɨns‖'prɑ:-/ *n* **1** [C] any of the main divisions of some countries, and formerly of some EMPIRES (groups of countries) that forms a separate whole for purposes of government control **2** [S] an area of knowledge, activity, etc., esp. one that is regarded as belonging to a particular person: *Sales forecasts are outside my province – you should discuss them with the sales manager.* | *Everything to do with our finances is my wife's province.* **3** [C] an area under the charge of an ARCHBISHOP (=a priest of the highest rank) —compare DIOCESE

prov·inc·es /'prɒvɨnsɨz‖'prɑ:-/ *n* [*the*+P] the parts of a country that are distant from the main city: *I saw the new film in London; it's not yet being shown in the provinces.*

pro·vin·cial[1] /prə'vɪnʃəl/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of a province or the provinces: *provincial government* | *a provincial newspaper* **2** *often derog* having the manners, speech, opinions, rather limited or old-fashioned customs, etc., that are sometimes regarded as typical of people from the PROVINCES: *her narrow-minded provincial attitudes* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ism** *n* [C;U] : *provincialism(s) of dress and manner*

provincial[2] *n* **1** a PROVINCIAL[1] (esp. 2) person **2** *tech* the head of a PROVINCE (3)

prov·ing ground /'·· ·/ *n* **1** a place for scientific testing, esp. of vehicles **2** a place or situation in which something new is tried out: *The school was a proving ground for his educational theories.*

pro·vi·sion[1] /prə'vɪʒən/ *n* **1** [U+**of**] the act of providing: *The provision of a new library has been of great benefit to the students.* **2** [U+**against, for**] preparation against future risks or for future needs: *They spend all their money and make no provision for the future.* **3** [C] a condition in an agreement or law; PROVISO: *According to the provisions of the agreement the interest on the loan must be paid monthly.* [+*that*] *The doctor agreed to go to Africa, with the provision that he could take his family with him.* —see also PROVISIONS

provision[2] *v* [T (**for**)] to provide with food and supplies in large quantities for a long time: *to provision a ship|an army*

pro·vi·sion·al /prə'vɪʒənəl/ *adj* for the present time only; suitable now, but likely to be changed: *a provisional government until we can hold an election* | *a provisional arrangement* —compare TEMPORARY — ~**ly** *adv* : *Provisionally, we've arranged the meeting for Tuesday, but we can change it if that doesn't suit you.*

Provisional IRA /·ˌ··· ··'·/ *also* **Provisionals, Provos**— [*the*] a group within the IRA that uses violence and TERRORISM to achieve its aim of a united Ireland. It is separate from the official IRA.

provisional li·cence /·'··· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ *learner's permit AmE*— *n* an official paper which is given to a person who is learning to drive. It is temporary and lasts for one year.

pro·vi·sions /prə'vɪʒənz/ *n* [P] food supplies, esp. for a particular purpose such as a journey —**provision** *adj* [A] : *a provision merchant*

pro·vi·so /prə'vaɪzəʊ/ *n* **-sos** a necessary condition in an agreement that is made in advance: [+*that*] *I agree to do the work, with one proviso – that I'm paid in advance.*

prov·o·ca·tion /ˌprɒvə'keɪʃən‖ˌprɑ:-/ *n* **1** [U] the act of provoking or reason for being provoked: *It's true that he hit her, but he was acting under severe provocation – she was hurting his child.* | *They attacked our border guards without the slightest provocation.* **2** [C] something that tests one's powers of self-control: *the provocations of teaching a class of badly-behaved children*

pro·voc·a·tive /prə'vɒkətɪv‖-'vɑ:-/ *adj* likely to cause strong feelings, e.g. of anger or sexual interest: *his provocative remarks about unemployed people being lazy* | *Amanda is looking very provocative in those tight jeans.* — ~**ly** *adv*

pro·voke /prə'vəʊk/ *v* [T] **1** [(**into, to**)] to make (a person or animal) angry or bad-tempered, esp. by continually annoying them: *That dog is very dangerous when provoked.* | *The students tried to provoke the teacher into losing her temper.* (=make her lose her temper by provoking her) [+*obj*+*to-v*] *His refusal to answer provoked me to shout at him.* —see ANNOY (USAGE) **2** to be the sudden cause of (a usu. unpleasant feeling or action): *Her insensitive speech provoked an angry reaction.* | *Don't throw one bone to two dogs; you'll only provoke a fight.* **3** **enough to provoke a saint** so annoying that it would make even the calmest and most patient person angry

Pro·vos /'prəʊvəʊz/ [*the*+P] *infml* the PROVISIONAL IRA

prov·ost /'prɒvəst‖'prəʊvəʊst/ *n (usu. cap.)* **1 a** the head of certain colleges: *the Provost of King's College* **b** *AmE* a university official of high rank **2** the head of a Scottish town council —compare MAYOR **3** the head of the CHAPTER in a CATHEDRAL in Britain, usu. also the PARISH priest where the cathedral is the parish church

pro·vost court /prə'vəʊ kɔ:t‖'prəʊvəʊ ˌkɔ:rt/ *n* a military court usu. for small offences in a country held by an army

provost mar·shal /prəˌvəʊ 'mɑ:ʃəl‖ˌprəʊvəʊ 'mɑ:r-/ *n* an officer who is in charge of military police

prow /praʊ/ *n esp. lit* the pointed front part of a ship or boat; BOW[5]

prow·ess /'praʊɨs/ *n usu. fml or lit* [U (**as, at, in**)] great ability, skill, or bravery. This word is usu. used in a military or sexual context: *The tribesmen sang a song of victory, describing their prowess in battle.* | *boasting about his sexual prowess*

prowl[1] /praʊl/ *v* [I;T] (esp. of an animal looking for food, or of a thief looking for a chance to steal) to move about (an area) quietly, trying not to be seen or heard: *I heard someone prowling about in the garden.* | *rough-looking men who prowl the streets after dark* — ~**er** *n* : *to report a prowler to the police*

prowl[2] *n* [S] an act of prowling: *a hungry lion* **on the prowl** (=prowling) | (fig., *infml*) *I'm going for a prowl round the bookshops.* (=looking for books to buy)

prowl car /'· ·/ *n AmE* a police car that is driven round the streets of a city looking for crime —see also PATROL CAR

prox /prɒks‖prɑ:ks/ *BrE fml, becoming rare* (used after a date in business letters) of next month: *The meeting will be held on the 24th prox.*

prox·i·mate /'prɒksɨmɨt‖'prɑ:k-/ *adj* [*no comp.*] *fml* **1** [(**to**)] nearest in time, order, or family relationship **2** [A] (of a cause) direct — ~**ly** *adv*

prox·im·i·ty /prɒk'sɪmɨti‖prɑ:k-/ *n* [U (**to, of**)] *fml* nearness: *Proximity to a good shopping centre is important.* | *a monument to be erected* **in the proximity of** (=somewhere near) *the town hall*

prox·y /'prɒksi‖'prɑ:ksi/ *n* **1** [U] the right given to a person to act for or represent another person on a single occasion, esp. as a voter at an election, because the person is not able to go because of illness or absence from the country. Official permission must be given before this right can be used: *to vote* **by proxy** (=by sending someone else) **2** [C] a person whom one chooses to act for or represent one

proxy vote /'·· ˌ·/ *n* a vote made by a person acting as a proxy (2) for another. The person represented either tells the proxy which way to vote, or allows him/her to vote as they think best.

prude /pru:d/ *n derog* a person who is, or claims to be, easily shocked by improper or rude things, esp. of a sexual nature. This word is usu. used for a woman, esp. a very CONSERVATIVE older woman. —**prudish** *adj* —**prudishly** *adv* : *"I never laugh at dirty jokes," she said prudishly.* —see also PRUDERY

pru·dent /'pru:dənt/ *adj* thinking carefully before taking action; careful to avoid risks, unpleasantness, difficulties, etc.: *I think it would be prudent to hear the other side of the argument before you make your decision.* —opposite **imprudent** — ~**ly** *adv* —**-dence** *n* [U] : *financial prudence*

pru·den·tial /pru:'denʃəl/ *adj fml* resulting from prudence, esp. in business matters — ~**ly** *adv*

Prudential also **Pru** /pru:/ *infml* — [*the*] *tdmk* a British and American insurance company

prud·er·y /'pru:dəri/ also **prud·ish·ness** /'pru:dɪʃnɨs/— *n* [U] *derog* the behaviour of a prude

prune[1] /pru:n/ *v* [T] **1** [(BACK)] to cut off or shorten some of the branches of (a tree or bush) in order to improve the shape and growth: *to prune roses with a pruning knife* —see picture at GARDEN **2** [(AWAY, BACK)] to remove

(branches, stems, etc.) in this way **3** [(AWAY, DOWN)] to reduce or remove (anything useless or unwanted) from (something) by making careful choices: *You should prune the speech down; it's too long.* | *pruning waste in the health service to reduce government spending*

prune[2] *n* **1** a dried PLUM, sometimes gently boiled before eating **2** *BrE infml* a silly person

pruning hook /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a hook-shaped knife on a usu. long pole, used for cutting branches of trees etc.

pru·ri·ent /ˈprʊəriənt/ *adj fml* having an unpleasantly strong and unhealthy interest in sex —~**ly** *adv* —**ence** *n* [U]

Prus·sia /ˈprʌʃə/ a former German state, divided between W Germany, E Germany, the USSR, and Poland in 1947. British people think of the typical Prussian as being very proud and military in their way of behaving. —**Prussian** *n,adj*

Prus·sian blue /ˌprʌʃən ˈbluː/ *n* [U] a deep blue colour or paint —**Prussian blue** *adj*

prus·sic ac·id /ˌprʌsɪk ˈæsɪd/ *n* [U] a very poisonous acid that quickly causes death

pry[1] /praɪ/ *v* [I (**into**)] *derog* to try to find out about someone else's private affairs: *I don't wish to pry, but is it true that you've sold your house?* | *prying newspaper reporters* | *He put a cover over it to discourage prying eyes.*

pry[2] *v* [T] *esp. AmE for* PRIZE[5]: *We used an iron bar to pry open the box.*

Pry·or /ˈpraɪəʳ/, **Richard** (1940–) an American COMEDIAN who has appeared in films and made several records. He is black and often makes jokes about situations involving black and white people together.

P.S. /ˌpiː ˈes/ *n* **1** a postscript; a note added at the end of a letter: *She added a P.S. asking me to send some money.* | *Yours, J. Smith. P.S. If Thursday is not convenient for you, please let me know.* **2** PRIVATE SECRETARY

psalm /sɑːm‖sɑːm, sɑːlm/ *n* (*sometimes cap.*) a song or poem in praise of God, esp. one of those in the Bible (from the **Book of Psalms**, in the OLD TESTAMENT, a collection of songs (HYMNS) often sung at church services on Sundays)

psalm·ist /ˈsɑːmɪst‖ˈsɑːm-, ˈsɑːlm-/ *n* a writer of psalms

psal·ter /ˈsɔːltəʳ/ *n* (*often cap.*) a book of the psalms in the Bible, often with music, for use in church services

psal·ter·y /ˈsɔːltəri/ *n* an ancient musical instrument with strings stretched over a board, played with the fingers

PSAT /ˌpiː es eɪ ˈtiː/ *n* Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test; an examination which students in the US take to prepare for the SAT. Students who do well on the PSAT may win a National Merit Scholarship. —see also SAT

PSBR /ˌpiː es biː ˈɑːʳ/ *abbrev. for* PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT

pse·phol·o·gy /seˈfɒlədʒi‖siːˈfɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of how people vote at elections —**-gist** *n*

pseud /sjuːd‖suːd/ *n BrE infml derog* someone who pretends to have especially great knowledge or especially good judgment, esp. in matters such as art or literature. British people tend to dislike this kind of person and would use this word to show their disapproval and CONTEMPT. —**pseudy** *adj*

pseudo- see WORD FORMATION

pseu·do·nym /ˈsjuːdənɪm‖ˈsuːdənɪm/ *n* an invented name used instead of one's real name, esp. by a writer: *Charlotte Brontë wrote under the pseudonym of Currer Bell.*

pseu·don·y·mous /sjuːˈdɒnɪməs‖suːˈdɑː-/ *adj* written or writing under a pseudonym: *the pseudonymous writer of this newspaper column*

pshaw /pʃɔː‖ʃɔː/ *interj* a sound used to express annoyance, disapproval, disbelief, or when you think someone or something is worthless or wrong

psit·ta·co·sis /ˌsɪtəˈkəʊsɪs/ *n* [U] a serious disease of certain birds, that can also be caught by people

pso·ri·a·sis /səˈraɪəsɪs/ *n med* an illness of the skin which makes the skin dry, red, and FLAKY (1)

psst /ps/ *interj* (a sound used for getting a person's attention while asking for secrecy): *Psst! Put your shoes on before he comes in!*

PST /ˌpiː es ˈtiː/ *abbrev. for*: PACIFIC STANDARD TIME

PSTN /ˌpiː es tiː ˈen/ *n* [U] Public Switched Telephone Network; the system of telephone lines around the world used for voice calls, or for DATA calls when proper equipment is used —see also ISDN

psych /saɪk/ *v*

psych sbdy./sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *sl, esp. AmE* **1** to frighten, using only the power of one's mind: *The boxer stared hard at his opponent before the match, trying to psych him out.* **2** to understand by INTUITION: *I psyched him out at once, and knew I couldn't trust him.*

psych sbdy. **up** *phr v* [T] *sl, esp. AmE* to make (esp. oneself) keen and ready: *She'd got herself all psyched up for the exam, so it was a big letdown when it was postponed.*

psy·che /ˈsaɪki/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *tech or fml* the human mind, soul, or spirit

psyched /saɪkt/ also **psyched up** /ˌ· ˈ·/— *adj sl* excited: *He was pretty psyched about his bike trip in Europe.*

psy·che·del·ic /ˌsaɪkɪˈdelɪk◂/ *adj* **1** (of a mind-influencing drug) causing strange and powerful sensations of happiness, understanding, hopelessness, etc. These drugs became popular in the 1960s and 70s, and now have a strong association with this period. —see also HIPPIE **2** (of a form of art) producing an effect on the brain by means of strong patterns of noise, colour, lines, moving lights, etc., like the effects produced by psychedelic drugs —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

psychiatric hos·pi·tal /ˌ···· ˈ···/ *n* a hospital where people with illnesses of the mind are treated

psy·chi·a·trist /saɪˈkaɪətrɪst‖sə-/ *n* a doctor trained in psychiatry: *a session on the psychiatrist's couch* —compare PSYCHOLOGIST (1)

psy·chi·a·try /saɪˈkaɪətri‖sə-/ *n* [U] the study and treatment of diseases of the mind, esp. when considered as a branch of medicine, that deals with mental, emotional, or behavioural problems —**tric** /ˌsaɪkiˈætrɪk◂/ *adj*: *psychiatric treatment|disorders* —**trically** /kli/ *adv*

psy·chic[1] /ˈsaɪkɪk/ also **psy·chi·cal** /-kɪkəl/— *adj* **1** (of a person) having powers that cannot be scientifically explained, e.g. the ability to see into the future: *How did you know I was here? You must be psychic!* —compare CLAIRVOYANT **2** [*no comp.*] concerning the soul or the spirits of the dead: *psychic experiences* **3** [*no comp.*] (of an illness) of the mind as opposed to the body: *psychic disorders* —~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

psychic[2] *n* a PSYCHIC[1] (1) person, esp. one who is believed to receive messages from the dead (a MEDIUM[2]). Many people do not believe in psychics and consider them to be strange, although they are often interested in what psychics say and do.

psychic re·search /ˌ·· ˈ··, ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] the study of the PARANORMAL, esp. the powers of the mind and also the existence of such things as GHOSTS, POLTERGEISTS, etc. This is a subject which causes a lot of argument and disagreement. People are often very interested in the more sensational forms of the paranormal, such as TELEKINESIS (=moving objects by the power of the mind alone), and these often appear in films or are mentioned in newspapers. —see also ESP, Uri GELLER

psy·cho /ˈsaɪkəʊ/ *n infml* a PSYCHOPATH.

Psycho an American HORROR film made in 1960 directed by Alfred HITCHCOCK. It is esp. known for a scene in which the character Marion (Janet Leigh) is stabbed (STAB) in a SHOWER by Norman BATES (Anthony Perkins). —see picture on page 685

psycho- see WORD FORMATION

psy·cho·an·a·lyse also **-lyze** *AmE* /ˌsaɪkəʊˈænəlaɪz/ *v* [T] to treat by psychoanalysis

psy·cho·a·nal·y·sis /ˌsaɪkəʊ-əˈnælɪsɪs/ *n* [U] a way of treating certain nervous disorders of the mind by examination of the sufferer's memories of past life, experiences, dreams, etc., in an effort to find hidden causes of the illness. It was developed by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalysis is fairly common in the US, but British people often have a negative view of it and are not certain that it is effective. —**tic** /ˌsaɪkəʊ-ænəˈlɪtɪk◂/, **-tical**— *adj* —**tically** /kli/ *adv*

psy·cho·an·a·lyst /ˌsaɪkəʊˈænəl-ɪst/ also **analyst** *AmE*— *n* a person who is trained in psychoanalysis. The STEREOTYPE of a psychoanalyst is of a very serious, unemotional man who sounds German, who sits next to the person

being treated (who lies on a COUCH[1]), and writes things in a NOTEBOOK but says very little.

psy·cho·bi·ol·o·gy /ˌsaɪkəʊbaɪˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑːl-/ *n* the study of the body in relation to the mind: *His speciality is the psychobiology of manic-depressives.*

psy·cho·dra·ma /ˈsaɪkəʊˌdrɑːmə‖-ˌdrɑːmə, -ˌdræmə/ *n* the playing of ROLES in events from a person's life as a method in PSYCHOTHERAPY or education

psy·cho·ki·ne·sis /ˌsaɪkəʊkaɪˈniːsɪs‖-kɪˈniː-/ *n* [U] the moving of solid objects by the power of the mind alone. There is very little scientific proof for psychokinesis and most people do not believe in it. However, it causes great interest, and people like to watch shows which supposedly prove that it exists. —see also Uri GELLER —**-tic** /-ˈnetɪk/ *adj* —**-tically** /kli/ *adv*

psy·cho·log·i·cal /ˌsaɪkəˈlɒdʒɪkəl◂‖-ˈlɑː-/ *adj* **1** of or connected with the way that the mind works: *a psychological play about a mother's power over her son's mind | There could be some psychological explanation for his bad health.* **2 at the psychological moment** *infml* just at the right time: *If you ask him at the psychological moment, he may say yes.* —**-cally** /kli/ *adv* : *psychologically unstable|disturbed*

psychological war·fare /ˌ····· ˈ··/ *n* [U] action taken to lessen enemy courage and loyalty by spreading fear, anxiety, different political beliefs, etc.

psy·chol·o·gist /saɪˈkɒlədʒɪst‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* **1** a person who is trained in psychology: *police psychologists* —compare PSYCHIATRIST **2** *infml* a person who understands people's characters: *He fancies himself as a bit of a psychologist. | a good psychologist*

psy·chol·o·gy /saɪˈkɒlədʒi‖-ˈkɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] the study or science of the mind and the way it works and influences behaviour: *educational psychology* **2** [C;U] *infml* a particular person's character and the way this influences their behaviour **3** [U] *infml* cleverness in understanding people: *You'll have to use a bit of psychology if you want to persuade them.*

psy·cho·path /ˈsaɪkəpæθ/ *n* a person who has a serious disorder of character that may cause violent or criminal behaviour —compare SOCIOPATH — **~ic** /ˌsaɪkəˈpæθɪk◂/ *adj* — **~ically** /kli/ *adv*

psy·cho·sis /saɪˈkəʊsɪs/ *n* **-ses** /siːz/ [C;U] a serious disorder of the mind that may produce character changes and makes one lose touch with reality —see also PSYCHOTIC

psy·cho·so·mat·ic /ˌsaɪkəʊsəˈmætɪk◂‖-kəsə-/ *adj* **1** (of an illness) caused by fear or anxiety in the mind rather than by a physical disorder **2** concerning the relationship between the mind and the body in illness: *psychosomatic medicine* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

psy·cho·ther·a·py /ˌsaɪkəʊˈθerəpi/ *n* [U] *tech* the treatment of DEPRESSION, anger, and other strong feelings, as well as disorders of the mind using psychology rather than drugs, operations, etc. —**-pist** *n*

psy·chot·ic /saɪˈkɒtɪk‖-ˈkɑː-/ *adj, n tech* (of or being) a person suffering from psychosis: *psychotic behaviour | He became (a) psychotic.* — **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

pt *written abbrev. for:* **1** part **2** payment **3** PINT(*s*) **4** point **5** (*often cap.*) port: *Pt Moresby*

PT /ˌpiː ˈtiː/ *n* [U] *esp. BrE* physical training; development of the body by games, exercises, etc.: *I enjoy PT. | a PT lesson* —compare GYM

PTA /ˌpiː tiː ˈeɪ/ *n* Parent-Teacher Association; an organization of teachers and parents that works for the improvement of a school —compare PTO[2]

PT boat /ˌpiː ˈtiː bəʊt/ *n* a small, fast boat used by the US armed forces, esp. during the Second World War. Many Americans remember that President John F Kennedy fought during the Second World War in a PT boat, PT 109, and that when it was sunk, Kennedy led the men to safety.

Pte *BrE written abbrev. for* PRIVATE[2] (1)

pter·o·dac·tyl /ˌterəˈdæktɪl‖-tl, -tɪl/ *n* a flying animal that lived many millions of years ago

PTO[1] /ˌpiː tiː ˈəʊ/ *abbrev. for* (written at the bottom of a page) please turn over; look at the next page

PTO[2] *n esp. AmE* Parent-Teacher Organization; a PTA

Ptol·e·ma·ic sys·tem /ˌtɒlɪˈmeɪ-ɪk ˌsɪstɪm‖ˌtɑːl-/ [*the*] the system according to which, in former times, the Earth was believed to be at the centre of the universe, with the sun, stars, and PLANETS travelling round it (from **Ptolemy** (2nd century AD), a Greek-Egyptian scientist —compare COPERNICAN SYSTEM

Ptol·e·my[1] /ˈtɒləmi‖ˈtɑː-/ a Greek-Egyptian scientist who studied the stars, and thought that the stars, the sun, and the PLANETS went round the earth. This idea is known as the Ptolemaic System.

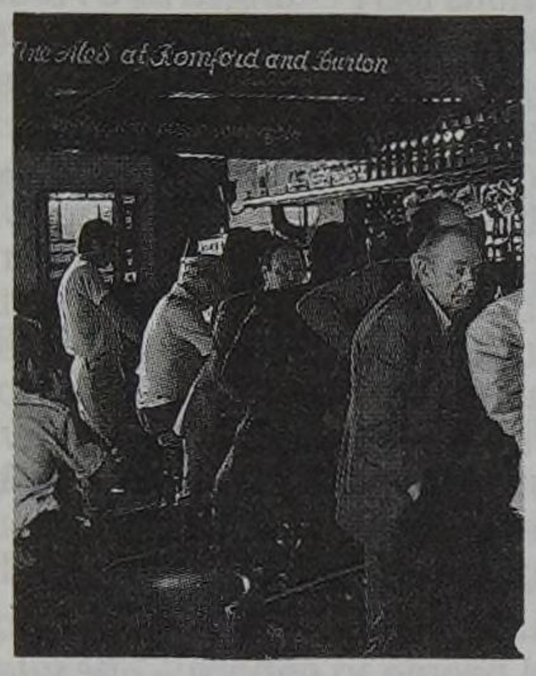
Ptolemy[2] the name of five kings of Egypt from the 3rd to the 1st century BC

pto·maine /ˈtəʊmeɪn, təʊˈmeɪn/ *adj* [A] concerning or caused by poisonous substances formed by bacteria in decaying meat: *ptomaine poisoning*

pty *written abbrev. for:* PROPRIETARY (used in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa after the name of a business company): *Australian Wine Growers Pty*

Pubs

the inside of a pub



the outside of a pub



Pubs are an important part of British life. Even very small villages nearly always have a pub. People, especially men, will often go to the pub for a drink in the evenings and at weekends. A man will usually go to the same pub, one which is close by and which is called the LOCAL (2 2): *I'm just nipping down to the local for a pint.* Women now go to pubs more than they used to, but usually do not like to go to a pub on their own. Children under 16 are not usually allowed into pubs, although some pubs have a children's room or a garden where children can sit.

Until 1988, pubs were only allowed to be open from 12:00 am to 2:00 pm and from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. The laws which say when alcoholic drink can be sold in a public place are called the LICENSING LAWS. Even though the law was changed so that alcohol can now be sold all day, many pubs still only open at lunchtime and in the evening. When it is nearly time for the pub to close, the LANDLORD (=man who runs the pub) or LANDLADY (=woman who runs the pub) shouts '**last orders**' (=buy your last drinks) and then '**time**' (=no more drinks will be served and people should now finish their drinks and leave the pub).

Pubs often sell food or SNACKS as well as drinks. Food that is considered typical pub food is SCAMPI (=kind of shellfish) and CHIPS (=fried potatoes), PIE and chips, chicken and chips, and PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH (=bread with cheese).

Pubs have names, e.g. *The Angel, The Black Swan, The Crown, The King's Arms, The Red Lion, The White Horse*, etc. and people usually refer to the pub by its name: *Turn left at the Rose and Crown.* There is often a sign outside the pub showing the name with a picture.

a pub sign



Many pubs have two or more different bars. The PUBLIC BAR is usually plainly furnished and often has a POOL table and DARTBOARD. It is the bar usually used by the LOCALS (=people, especially men, from nearby who use the pub regularly). The SALOON BAR is comfortable and well-furnished and is the bar that is usually used by men and women drinking together.

pub /pʌb/ also **public house** *BrE fml*– *n* (esp. in Britain) a building, not a club or hotel, where alcohol may be bought and drunk during fixed hours: *They've gone down to the pub.* | *the landlord of the pub* | *a pub lunch* –see also LOCAL[2] (2); compare BAR[1] (3a)

pub-crawl /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n esp. BrE sl* a visit to several pubs one after another, usu. having a drink at each place. People who **go on a pub-crawl** are usu. young men and often get drunk: *Taxi-drivers dislike picking up people who have been on a pub-crawl.* –**pub-crawl** *v* [I]

pu·ber·ty /ˈpjuːbəti‖-ər-/ *n* [U] the stage of change in the human body from childhood to the adult state in which it is possible to produce children. In Western countries people do not celebrate puberty and it is not usu. discussed openly. Parents usu. inform their children about the changes at puberty and it is also taught at school.

pu·bic /ˈpjuːbɪk/ *adj* [A] of or near the sexual organs: *pubic hair*

pub·lic[1] /ˈpʌblɪk/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of, for, or concerning people in general: *The rise in drug-taking is a matter of public concern.* | *The regulations were changed as a result of public pressure.* | *The government's attitude to this is a public disgrace|scandal.* **2** [*no comp.*] for the use of everyone; not private: *a public fountain* | *Is this garden public?* **3** [*no comp.*] connected with the government and the services it provides for the people: *a new policy on public spending* | *to hold* **public office** (=be a government minister, etc.) **4** (able to be) known to all or to many; not secret: *The news was not* **made public** *for several days.* | *Don't talk about it here; this place is too public.* | *a public inquiry into the causes of the accident* **5 go public** to become a PUBLIC COMPANY **6 in the public eye** (of a person) often seen in public or on television, or mentioned in newspapers –compare PRIVATE[1] –~**ly** *adv* : *publicly humiliated*

public[2] *n* **1** [*the +sing./pl. v*] people in general: *The town gardens are open to the public|to members of the public daily.* | *The British public is|are not really interested in this issue.* –see also JOE BLOGGS **2** [S; U+*sing./pl. v*] any group considered in terms of its relation to a particular person, activity, etc.: *The singer tried to please his public by singing old songs.* | *Is there a public for that sort of book?* (=will people be interested in it?) **3 in public** in the presence of strangers or of many people –opposite **in private**

public ac·cess /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the right of people in general to go on to certain land: *The Ramblers Association is protesting about the lack of public access to parts of the North Yorkshire moors.*

public ac·cess chan·nel /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* COMMUNITY CHANNEL

public-ad·dress sys·tem /ˌ·· ·ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* see PA (2)

public af·fairs /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [P] events and questions, esp. political ones, which concern most people: *There's a programme on TV every week which discusses public affairs in a non-partisan manner.*

pub·li·can /ˈpʌblɪkən/ *n* **1** *fml, esp. BrE* a person who runs a PUB –compare INNKEEPER **2** a tax collector in ancient Rome

pub·li·ca·tion /ˌpʌblɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of making something known to the public: *the publication of the election results* **2** [U] the offering for sale to the public of something printed: *The book is ready for publication.* **3** [C] something published (PUBLISH), such as a book or magazine: *The library gets the usual monthly publications.*

public bar /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a plainly furnished room in a PUB, hotel, etc., where lower prices are charged for drinks than in the SALOON BAR. The public bar is usually the most popular room in a pub and also the place where games are played. –see also PUB

public bill /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE* a BILL[1] (2) that has an effect on the general public rather than a particular person or class –compare PRIVATE BILL

public com·pa·ny /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a business company that offers its shares for sale on the STOCK EXCHANGE

public con·ve·ni·ence /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ also **convenience**– *n BrE euph* a public TOILET provided by local government –see TOILET (USAGE)

public cor·po·ra·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* **1** an organization set up by the British government to run a state-owned business e.g. British Rail **2** *AmE* a company whose shares are bought and sold on a STOCK EXCHANGE and which is therefore owned by a large number of people

public de·fend·er /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n AmE* a lawyer provided by the state, COUNTY, or city government to defend poor people in law cases –compare DISTRIC ATTORNEY

public do·main /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *law* **in the public domain** (of a work of art, literature, an invention, or a piece of information) no longer the property of the artist, writer, or inventor. When a work is in the public domain, anyone can use it without asking permission: *Many famous pieces of classical music are in the public domain and are used in advertisements.*

public en·e·my /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* **1** a person, esp. a wanted criminal, who is a danger to the public and who is usually being hunted by the police. Pictures of the person are often put up in public places. **2 public enemy number one** a phrase used in speaking of a criminal, an illness, etc. that is regarded as the most serious threat to people's safety or health: *For a few weeks, pitbull terriers became public enemy number one in the popular press.*

public ex·pen·di·ture /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] spending by the government on e.g. schools, roads, hospitals, the army, SOCIAL SECURITY, and wages

public foot·path /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n BrE* a footpath which is open to the public and which people have a right to use, as opposed to a PRIVATE footpath

public fund·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **public funds** /ˌ·· ˈ·/– *n* [U] money given by the government for activities or organizations for the public use: *Public funding for the arts is lower in Britain than in Germany.*

public health /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] HEALTH CARE for the public, provided by the government or local authority and including PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, SANITATION, and HYGIENE in public places

public hol·i·day /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a general holiday when most people are off work and shops are usu. closed

public house /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE fml for* PUB

public hous·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* flats or houses built by the US government for very poor people. It is usu. in cities, of poor quality, and strongly disliked by everyone, esp. those who live in it. –compare COUNCIL HOUSE

public in·quir·y /ˌ·· ·ˈ··‖ˌ·· ˈ···, ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* an official INVESTIGATION into the reasons for something happening, esp. an accident: *They are going to conduct a public inquiry into the causes of the disaster.* | *the subject of a public inquiry*

pub·li·cist /ˈpʌblɪsɪst/ *n* a person whose business is to bring something, esp. products for sale, to the attention of the public: (fig.) *He's a good self-publicist.* (=he is good at making himself well-known)

pub·lic·i·ty /pʌˈblɪsɪti/ *n* [U] **1** public notice or attention: *The film star's marriage got a lot of publicity.* | *unwelcome publicity* **2** the business of bringing someone or something to the attention of the public: *Who is in charge of publicity for our show?* | *a big publicity campaign to highlight the dangers of smoking*

pub·li·cize also **-cise** *BrE* /ˈpʌblɪsaɪz/ *v* [T] to bring to public notice: *to publicize a new policy*

public law /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n law* **1** [C] a law which concerns the general public **2** [U] the part of law concerned with the relations of the state with people and the activities, rights, and duties of the government and its departments –compare PRIVATE LAW

public lend·ing right /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* (in Britain) an arrangement which provides payment for writers depending on how often their books are borrowed from certain public libraries

public li·bra·ry /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* a building paid for out of taxes where people can go and borrow books free of charge

public lim·it·ed com·pa·ny /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˈ···/ also **plc** *abbrev.*– *n* a company in Britain which has at least two members and SHARES[1](2) available to the public. Public limited companies must print their accounts and include **plc** in their name.

public nui·sance /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* **1** *law* an act or failure to act which is harmful to everyone: *He committed a public nuisance by blocking the road.* **2** *infml* a person who makes trouble

public o·pin·ion /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] the opinions, views, or beliefs held by the general public on subjects of national interest or importance: *public opinion says that politicians can never make the mistake of having an affair.*

public own·er·ship /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the owning of businesses, property, etc., by the state. In Britain several companies in public ownership have been privatized (PRIVATIZE), esp. during Mrs Thatcher's government.

public pros·e·cu·tor /ˌ·· ˈ····/ *n* (*often caps.*) (in Britain) a government lawyer who acts for the state in bringing charges against criminals in a court of law —compare DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Public Rec·ord Of·fice /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] an office in London that holds all the government records, some of historical value. Most of the records can be examined by the general public after 30 years.

public re·la·tions /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ also **PR**— *n* **1** [U] the work of forming in the minds of the general public a favourable opinion of an organization: *She's a public relations officer in a big oil company.* **2** [P] good relations between an organization and the public: *Giving money to the local theatre would be good for (our company's) public relations.*

public relations ex·er·cise /ˌ·· ·ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* an action that is done only to gain favour with the public and not because of any real feeling or interest: *The parades come down to one thing: a public relations exercise for the Bush Administration.*

public school /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **1** a private FEE-PAYING British and esp. English SECONDARY school where children usu. live as well as study. Public schools are known for their high ACADEMIC standards and are considered PRESTIGIOUS. They are expensive and attended usu. by people of high social STATUS or with a lot of money. The most famous British public schools include Eton, Harrow, and Winchester. **2** (esp. in the US and Scotland) a free local school, controlled and paid for by the state, for children who study there but live at home —compare PRIVATE SCHOOL

public sec·tor /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] those industries and services in a country that are owned and run by the state, such as (in many countries) the education service and the railways: *a job in the public sector | public-sector employees* —compare PRIVATE SECTOR

public sector bor·row·ing re·quire·ment /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··· ·ˌ··/ also **PSBR** *abbrev.*— [*the*] the difference between the money the government collects and the money it spends, when this is greater

public serv·ant /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a person who works for the government, esp. one who is elected

public serv·ice /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [*C;the*] **1** the supply of a COMMODITY, such as gas or electricity, or service, such as TRANSPORT, to the general public **2** a service performed in the public interest **3** [employment in the government or its departments; CIVIL SERVICE

public speak·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the practice of making speeches in public

public spend·ing /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the money spent by local and central government and public organizations on things such as roads, schools, HOUSING, etc.

public spir·it /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *apprec* willingness to do what is helpful for everyone, without regard for personal advantage —**public-spirited** /ˌ·· ˈ···◂/ *adj* : *Thank you for volunteering; that's very public-spirited of you!*

public tel·e·vi·sion /ˌ·· ˈ····ˌ ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n* [U] a television service in the US which is supported by money given by the government, large companies, and people who watch public television stations. Public television is thought of by many people as making good quality programmes that are both educational and entertaining. —see also PBS

public trans·port /ˌ·· ˈ··/ , **public trans·por·ta·tion** /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *AmE*— *n* [U] means of TRANSPORT open to the general public; bus, train, UNDERGROUND[3], etc.

public works /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] buildings, roads, ports, etc., provided by the government for public use

pub·lish /ˈpʌblɪʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] **a** (of a business firm) to choose, arrange, have printed, and offer for sale to the public (a book, magazine, newspaper, etc.): *This firm publishes educational books/software. | to get a job in publishing* **b** (of a newspaper or magazine) to print for the public to read: *We can't publish all the letters we receive.* **2** [I;T] (of a writer or musician) to have (one's work) printed and put on sale: *She's just published her fourth novel.* **3** [T *often pass.*] to make known generally; bring to the knowledge of the public: *The latest unemployment figures will be published tomorrow.* **4 publish and be damned** *quote* a phrase which is believed to have been used by the Duke of Wellington, now used when saying that people should publish a book even if it will cause disagreement or protest **5 publish or perish** *AmE* a saying used about university teachers, meaning that if they do not publish something new each year they may lose their jobs. The publish or perish system is often criticized and blamed for causing teachers to spend less time with their students.

pub·lish·er /ˈpʌblɪʃəʳ/ *n* a person or firm (also **publishing house**) whose business is to PUBLISH (1) books, newspapers, etc., or (sometimes) to make and sell records

Puc·ci·ni /pʊˈtʃiːni/, **Gia·co·mo** /ˈdʒækəməʊ‖ˈdʒɑː-/ (1858–1924) an Italian COMPOSER famous for his OPERAS, esp. *La Bohème* and *Tosca*

puce /pjuːs/ *adj* dark brownish purple

puck /pʌk/ *n* a hard flat circular piece of rubber used instead of a ball in the game of ICE HOCKEY

Puck **1** an imaginary creature that enjoys playing tricks on people **2** a character who behaves in this way in Shakespeare's play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

puck·er /ˈpʌkəʳ/ *v* [I;T (UP)] to tighten into uneven or unattractive folds: *Her little mouth puckered up and tears filled her eyes.* —**pucker** *n*

puck·ish /ˈpʌkɪʃ/ *adj lit* harmlessly playful; CHEEKY (from Puck, a playful FAIRY in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare): *a puckish grin* —~**ly** *adv*

pud /pʊd/ *n* [C;U] *BrE infml for* PUDDING

pud·ding /ˈpʊdɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] **1** *BrE* (a) sweet food served at the end of a meal: *What's for pudding?* —see DESSERT (USAGE) **2** *esp. BrE* (*usu. in comb.*) a usu. solid hot sweet dish based on pastry, rice, bread, etc., with fat and fruit or other substances added. Puddings are very TRADITIONAL British food and are very popular: *a helping of rice pudding | (a) bread and butter pudding* **3** *BrE* (*usu. in comb.*) an unsweetened dish of a mixture of flour, fat, etc., either covering or enclosing meat and boiled with it: *(a) steak and kidney pudding* **4** *AmE* a thick, soft, sweet DESSERT usu. made with milk, eggs, sugar, and a little flour, and served either hot or cold: *chocolate pudding* —see also BLACK PUDDING, CHRISTMAS PUDDING, MILK PUDDING, PLUM PUDDING, YORKSHIRE PUDDING, **the proof of the pudding is in the eating** (PROOF[1])

pudding ba·sin /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n BrE* **1** a deep round dish narrower at the bottom than the top, in which puddings are cooked **2** a haircut for straight hair in which the hair is cut round in a straight line and looks like a pudding basin

pud·dle[1] /ˈpʌdl/ *n* a small amount of water, esp. rain, lying in a hollow place in the ground

puddle[2] *v* [T] *tech* to mix (sand, clay, and water) into a mass

pu·den·dum /pjuːˈdendəm/ *n* **-da** /də/ *old-fash fml* the sexual organs, esp. of a woman

pudg·y /ˈpʌdʒi/ *adj* PODGY —**-iness** *n* [U]

pueb·lo /ˈpweblәʊ/ *n Sp* a town; used esp. of towns in the SW US

Pueblo *n* [C;U] (a member of) a group of TRIBES of Native Americans, including the Hopi, living in the southwestern part of the US. They are known esp. for their ADOBE buildings. —see NATIVE AMERICAN (CULTURAL NOTE)

pu·er·ile /ˈpjʊəraɪl‖-rəl/ *adj fml* childish; silly; IMMATURE: *his puerile sense of humour* —**-ility** /pjʊəˈrɪlɨti/ *n* [U]

pu·er·per·al /pjuːˈɜːpərəl‖-ˈɜːr-/ *adj* [A] *med* of, after, or caused by giving birth (esp. in the phrase **puerperal fever**)

Puer·to Ri·co /ˌpwɜːtəʊ ˈriːkəʊ‖ˌpɔːrtə-, ˌpweərtə-/ an island SE of the US; capital San Juan; population 3,658,000 (1989). People who live in Puerto Rico are US citizens but Puerto Rico is not a US state and governs itself. Many people from Puerto Rico move to the US in order to earn more money. —**Puerto Rican** /ˌpwɜːtəʊ ˈriːkən◂‖ ˌpɔːrtə, ˌpweərtə-/ *n, adj*

Puerto Val·lar·ta /ˌpwɜːtəʊ vaɪˈɑːtə‖ˌpɔːrtə vaɪ-ˈɑːrtə, pweərtə-/ a town in western Mexico on the Pacific Ocean. Many Americans go on holiday to Puerto Vallarta.

puff[1] /pʌf/ *v* **1** [I] to breathe rapidly and with effort, usu. during or after hurried movement: *Running makes him puff heavily.* | *He puffed up the steep slope.* (=climbed while breathing fast) **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to breathe in and out while smoking a cigarette, pipe, etc.: *He puffed (away) at his pipe as he talked.* | *She puffed at a cigarette nervously.* **3** [I;T (OUT)] **a** (of smoke or steam) to blow or come out repeatedly, esp. in small amounts **b** to cause to come out in this way: *Don't puff cigarette smoke in my face.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] to move along while sending out little clouds of smoke: *The old engine puffed along/puffed into the station.* **5** [T] *old-fash infml* to praise (esp. something for sale) more than is deserved: *critics puffing a new film* **6** *infml* **puff and blow** to show signs of making a great physical effort: *he was puffing and blowing carrying the heavy box up the stairs*

puff sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** [(**with**)] to make larger, esp. with air: *The bird puffed out its feathers.* | *He puffed his chest out proudly.* **2** to put out the flame of (something) by blowing lightly: *to puff out a candle*

puff up *phr v* [I; T (=**puff** sthg. ↔ **up**)] to (cause to) swell: *Mustard makes my eyes puff up.* | (fig.) *He is puffed up (with pride).* (=too proud)

puff[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of puffing: *He took a puff at his cigarette.* **2** [C] a sudden light rush of air, smoke, etc.: *a puff of wind* —see picture at PIECE **3** [C] a decorative part of a garment that swells out in the middle: *puff sleeves* **4** [C] (*usu. in comb.*) a hollow piece of light pastry (**puff pastry**) that is filled with a soft usu. sweet mixture: *a lemon puff* **5** [U] *infml humor* breath **6** [C] *infml* a piece of writing praising a person or an entertainment —see also POWDER PUFF

puff·ball /ˈpʌfbɔːl/ *n* a type of FUNGUS that looks like a ball and bursts when ripe, giving off a cloud of SPORES (=seeds)

puffball skirt /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a short skirt which becomes wider between the waist and the lower edge, giving a rounded shape gathered at the lower edge

puffed /pʌft/ *adj* [F] *infml* (esp. of a person) breathing with difficulty; out of breath

puffed sleeve /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a short SLEEVE which becomes wider in the middle and is gathered at the top and lower edge

puffed wheat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* grains of wheat that are PUFF*ed* up and eaten with milk (and sugar) as a breakfast CEREAL

puf·fin /ˈpʌfɪn/ *n* a North Atlantic seabird that has a very large brightly coloured beak —see picture at WATER BIRD

Puffin *n tdmk* a PAPERBACK book for children and young people produced by Penguin Books

Puff the Ma·gic Drag·on /ˌ·· · ˌ·· ˈ··/ an imaginary DRAGON in a children's song with the same name

puff·y /ˈpʌfi/ *adj* rather swollen: *puffy eyes* —**iness** *n* [U]

pug /pʌg/ *n* a small fat short-haired dog with a wide flat face and a short flat nose

Pu·get Sound /ˌpjuːdʒɪt ˈsaʊnd/ *n* a body of water leading from the Pacific Ocean into the US state of Washington. The cities of Seattle and Tacoma are on its shores.

pu·gi·lis·m /ˈpjuːdʒɪlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *fml* (in former times) the art or sport of BOXING —**tic** /ˌpjuːdʒɪˈlɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

pu·gi·list /ˈpjuːdʒɪlɪst/ *n fml or pomp* a BOXER (1)

pug·na·cious /pʌgˈneɪʃəs/ *adj fml* (of people or behaviour, but not countries) fond of quarrelling and fighting – compare BELLIGERENT[1] (1) —~**ly** *adv* —**nacity** /pʌgˈnæsɪti/, **-naciousness** /-ˈneɪʃəsnɪs/ *n* [U] *fml*: *known for his pugnacity/pugnaciousness*

pu·is·sance[1] /ˈpjuːɪsəns, ˈpwɪsəns/ *n* [U] *poet or old use* power or strength, esp. of a king

puis·sance[2] /ˈpwiːsəns/ *n* a competition in which riders have to make their horses jump over very high fences

pu·is·sant /ˈpjuːɪsənt, ˈpwɪsənt/ *adj poet or old use* powerful

puke[1] /pjuːk/ *v* [I;T (UP)] *sl* to be sick; VOMIT

puke[2] *n* [U] *sl* food brought back from the stomach through the mouth; VOMIT

puk·ka /ˈpʌkə/ *adj esp. IndE & PakE* **1** good; of high quality **2** real; GENUINE **3** *humor* stiff and formal (from the fixed social manners supposed to be typical of the British in India during the period of British rule there)

pul·chri·tude /ˈpʌlkrɪtjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* beauty, esp. of a woman —**-tudinous** /ˌpʌlkrɪˈtjuːdɪnəs◂‖-ˈtuː-/ *adj*

Pul·it·zer Prize /ˈpʊlɪtsə ˌpraɪz‖-sər-/ *n* one of the eight prizes given every year for newspaper writing (JOURNALISM) and for LITERARY achievement (from Joseph Pulitzer (1847–1911), an American newspaper PUBLISHER who provided money for the prizes)

pull[1] /pʊl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to bring (something) along behind one while moving: *The horse was pulling a cart.* | *The train is pulled by a powerful engine.* —compare DRAG **2** [I;T] to use force on (something), esp. with the hands, in order to move it towards oneself or in the direction of the force: *Help me move the piano over here; you push and I'll pull.* | *In an emergency pull the cord to stop the train.* | *sailors pulling on a rope* [+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *She pulled her chair up to the table.* | *He pulled his socks on.* | *The cupboard door is stuck and I can't pull it open.* | *She pulled the fence apart/to pieces with her bare hands.* **3** [T] to bring or press towards one in order to make an apparatus work: *To fire the gun, just pull the trigger.* **4** [T (OUT, UP)] to take (something out of a place where it is fixed or enclosed), usu. with force: *The decayed tooth should be pulled (out).* | *to pull the cork from a bottle* | *She went into the garden to pull (up) a few onions for dinner.* **5** [T] to stretch and damage, by using force; STRAIN: *He's* **pulled a muscle** *trying to lift the piano.* **6** [T] to win, gain, or attract: *The big match pulled in an enormous crowd.* | *She's unlikely to pull many votes at the election.* | (*infml*) *He's hoping to pull the girls with his flashy new car.* **7** [T (**on**)] to bring out (a small weapon) ready for use: *He pulled a gun on me.* (=took out a gun and aimed it at me) **8** [T] *esp. BrE* to get (beer) out of a barrel by pulling a handle: *to pull a pint* **9** [I] (of a horse) to struggle and press the mouth hard against the BIT[2] **10** [T] *sl, esp. AmE* to succeed in doing (a crime, something daring, something annoying or deceiving, etc.): *They pulled a bank robbery.* | *What are you trying to pull?* (=What trick are you trying to play?) **11** [T] *tech* to hold back (a horse in a race, or a blow being aimed in BOXING) with the intention of avoiding victory —see also **pull one's punches** (PUNCH[2]) **12** [I;T] *tech* to hit (the ball in cricket or GOLF) away from a straight course and away from the side of the player's stronger hand **13** [I] *old-fash* to row —compare PUSH[1]; see also **pull a fast one** (FAST[1]), **pull one's finger out** (FINGER[1]), **pull someone's leg** (LEG[1]), **pull something out of the bag** (BAG[1]), **pull to pieces** (PIECE[1]), **pull rank** (RANK[1]), **pull the rug out from under** (RUG), **pull one's socks up** (SOCK[1]), **pull strings** (STRING[1]), **pull one's weight** (WEIGHT[1]), **pull the wool over someone's eyes** (WOOL)

pull ahead *phr v* [I (**of**)] to get in front by moving faster: *The taxi soon pulled ahead of the bus.*

pull at sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to seize and pull sharply and repeatedly: *She pulled at the thread until it came out of the cloth.* | *The child pulled at his mother's coat, wanting to be lifted up.* **2** *old-fash* to cause tobacco smoke to flow from (a pipe) **3** *old-fash* to take a long drink from (a container)

pull away *phr v* [I (**from**)] (esp. of a vehicle or its driver) to start to move away **a** from the side of the road **b** from another moving vehicle: *He jumped onto the bus just as it was pulling away.* | *The thieves steadily pulled away from the police car.*

pull sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to break in pieces and destroy (something built): *They are pulling down those houses to make room for a new hotel.* **2** to weaken in health

pull in *phr v* **1** [I] (of a train) to arrive at a station **2** [I] (of a vehicle or its driver) to move to one side and perhaps stop —compare PULL **over**; see also PULL-IN **3** [T] (**pull** sbdy. ↔ **in**) to take (a possible criminal) to a police station: *The police have pulled him in for questioning.* **4** [T] (**pull** sthg. ↔ **in**) *infml* to earn (a lot of money): *She's pulling in quite a bit in her new job.*

pull sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to succeed in (a difficult attempt): *The trick looked impossible, but she pulled it off.*

pull out *phr v* **1** [I] (of a train) to leave a station – compare PULL **away** **2** [I] (of a vehicle or its driver) to move **a** away from the side of the road **b** in front of another moving vehicle **3** [I;T (=**pull** sbdy. ↔ **out**)

(**of**)] to (cause to) leave a place or time of trouble: *The general pulled his troops out of the area.* | *Jim saw that the firm was going to be ruined, so he pulled out.* —see also **pull out all the stops** (STOP²)

pull over *phr v* [I;T (=**pull** sthg. ↔ **over**)] **a** (of a vehicle or its driver) to move over to one side of the road: *The policeman signalled to him to pull over.* **b** to drive (one's vehicle) to the side of the road —compare PULL **in** (2)

pull through *phr v* [I;T (=**pull** sbdy. **through**)] **1** also **pull round**— to (cause to) live in spite of illness or wounds: *He's very ill, but with careful nursing he'll pull through.* —compare BRING **through** **2** to (help to) succeed in spite of difficulties: *Margaret had difficulty with her work for the examinations, but her teacher pulled her through.*

pull together *phr v* **1** [I] (of a group of people) to work so as to help a shared effort **2** [T *no pass.*] (**pull** sbdy. **together**) to control the feelings of (oneself): *Stop acting like a baby!* **Pull yourself together!** **3** [T] (**pull** sthg. **together**) to cause to improve through proper organization: *We need an experienced man to pull the department together.*

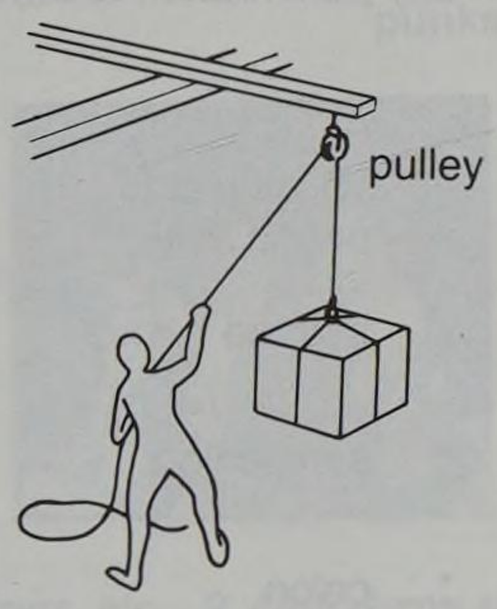
pull up *phr v* **1** [I;T (**pull** sthg. **up**)] to (cause to) come to a stop: *The car pulled up at the traffic lights.* | *His unexpected criticism rather pulled me up short.* (=made me stop and think) **2** [I (**to, with**)] to come level (with another competitor in a race) **3** [T (**on, for**)] (**pull** sbdy. **up**) to stop (someone who is making mistakes) and express disapproval

pull² *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) pulling: *Give the rope a good/gentle pull.* | *the moon's pull on the sea* —compare TUG **2** [S] a difficult steep climb: *It's a long pull up this hill.* **3** [C (**at**)] *old-fash* an act of taking in tobacco smoke or of taking a long drink: *He took a pull at his pipe/at his beer.* **4** [C] (*usu. in comb.*) a rope, handle, etc., used for pulling something: *a bellpull* **5** [S;U] *infml* special influence; (unfair) personal advantage: *The importance of his family's name gives him a certain pull/lots of pull in this town.* **6** [C] a stroke in cricket or GOLF that PULL*s*¹ (12) the ball

pul·let /ˈpʊlɨt/ *n* a young hen during its first year of laying eggs

pul·ley /ˈpʊli/ *n* an apparatus consisting of a wheel over which a rope or chain can be moved, mainly used for lifting heavy things: *a system of pulleys*

pulley



pull-in /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE infml* a place by the roadside where vehicles may stop and the drivers can get drinks and light meals —see also PULL **in** (2)

Pull·man /ˈpʊlmən/ also **sleeping car** *AmE— tdmk n* a specially comfortable railway carriage, esp. for sleeping in (from George Mortimer Pullman (1831–97), an American inventor who fitted railway COACH*es* with beds for overnight travel)

pull-on /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] (of a garment) that is pulled on and fits tightly, without any fastenings: *a pull-on shirt*

pull·out /ˈpʊlaʊt/ *n* a part of a book, magazine, etc., that is complete in itself and may be taken out separately

pull·o·ver /ˈpʊlˌəʊvəʳ/ *n* a SWEATER that is pulled on over the head

pul·lu·late /ˈpʌljʊleɪt/ *v* [I] *fml* to breed or multiply quickly and in great numbers —**-lation** /ˌpʌljʊˈleɪʃən/ *n* [U]

pull-up /ˈ· ·/ also **chin-up** *AmE— n* an exercise in which one takes hold of a bar above one's head and uses one's arms to pull up the body until one's head is over the bar: *How many pull-ups can you do?*

pul·mo·na·ry /ˈpʊlmənəri, ˈpʌ-‖-neri/ *adj tech* of or having an effect on the lungs

pulp¹ /pʌlp/ *n* **1** [S;U] a soft almost liquid mass, such as the soft inside part of many fruits or vegetables: *A banana is mainly pulp, except for its skin.* | *These vegetables have been boiling too long; they're cooked to a pulp.* | (fig.) *I'll* **beat/mash him (in) to a pulp** *if I catch him!* | (fig.) *a terrifying teacher who could always* **reduce me to (a) pulp** (=make me helplessly afraid and unable to act) **2** [U] wood or other vegetable materials, such as cotton cloth, softened and used for making paper —**pulpy** *adj*

pulp² *v* [T] to cause (esp. books, etc.) to become pulp

pulp³ *adj* [A] *derog* (of books and magazines) cheaply produced on rough paper and containing matter of bad quality, esp. shocking stories about sex and violence: *pulp novels*

pul·pit /ˈpʊlpɪt/ *n* **1** [C] a small raised enclosure of wood or stone in a church, from which the priest speaks to the worshippers —see picture at CHURCH **2** [*the*] *fml* (the Christian priesthood as a profession which includes) religious teaching in church

pulp·wood /ˈpʌlpwʊd/ *n* [U] crushed wood that is used to make paper

pul·sar /ˈpʌlsɑːʳ/ *n* a star-like object that usu. cannot be seen, but is known to exist because of the regular radio signals that it gives out —compare QUASAR

pul·sate /pʌlˈseɪt‖ˈpʌlseɪt/ *v* [I (**with**)] **1** to shake very regularly; VIBRATE: *The air seemed to pulsate with the bright light.* | *the pulsating beat of Latin American dance music* **2** to PULSE² (1)

pul·sa·tion /pʌlˈseɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. tech* a beat of the heart or any regular beat that can be measured **2** [U] pulsating movement

pulse¹ /pʌls/ *n* **1** [*usu. sing.*] the regular beating of blood in the main blood tubes carrying blood from the heart, esp. as felt at the wrist: *The doctor* **felt/took** *the woman's* **pulse**. (=counted the number of beats per minute) | *His pulse quickened/raced.* (=his heart beat very quickly) | *Her pulse was strong/weak.* **2** a strong regular beat as in music, on a drum, etc. **3 a** a short sound as sent by radio **b** a small change in the quantity of electricity going through something, esp. that in a telephone which makes it able to ask for connection with another telephone

pulse² *v* [I] **1** [(**through, with**)] to beat steadily as the heart does; move or flow with a steady rapid beat and sound: *He could feel the blood pulsing through his veins as he waited for the signal to attack.* | *One could feel the excitement pulsing through the crowd.* **2** (of a machine) to send out signals in regular PULSE*s*¹ (3)

pulse³ *n* [*usu. pl.*] (the seeds of) beans, PEA*s*, LENTIL*s*, etc., used as food

pul·ver·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈpʌlvəraɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to crush into a fine grain of powder or dust **2** *infml* to defeat thoroughly —**-ization** /ˌpʌlvəraɪˈzeɪʃən‖-rə-/ *n* [U]

pu·ma /ˈpjuːmə/ *n* **pumas** *or* **puma** a COUGAR

pum·ice /ˈpʌmɨs/ also **pumice stone** /ˈ·· ·/— *n* [U] a very light, silver-grey rock, used in pieces or in powder form for cleaning and for rubbing surfaces smooth

pum·mel /ˈpʌməl/ ‖ also **pommel** *esp. AmE— v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T] to hit repeatedly, esp. with two FIST*s* (closed hands): *When he picked up his small daughter she pummelled him angrily on the chest.*

pump¹ /pʌmp/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a machine for forcing liquids, air, or gas into or out of something: *an old-fashioned pump for drawing water from a well* | *The heart is a kind of natural pump that moves the blood around the body.* | *He blew up his car tyres with a foot pump.* | *to operate a petrol pump* | *a bicycle pump* —see also STOMACH PUMP and see picture at BICYCLE **2** [S] an act of pumping —see also HEAT PUMP, **prime the pump** (PRIME³), and see picture at ENGINE

pumps



petrol pump bicycle pump

pump² *v* **1** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] **a** to empty or fill (a

container) using a pump: *She pumped up her car tyres.* **b** to move (liquids, air, or gas) with a pump: *The doctor pumped the poison out of the child's stomach.* | (fig.) *The government has been pumping money into new road-building schemes.* (=spending a lot of money on them) **2** [I (AWAY)] **a** to work a pump: *He pumped away furiously.* **b** to work like a pump: *My heart was pumping very fast.* **3** [I+ *adv/prep*] (of a liquid) to come out in short bursts as if from a pump: *blood pumping from a wound* **4** [T] to move (something) up and down like the handle of an old-fashioned pump: *He pumped his friend's hand up and down, saying how glad he was to see him.* **5** [T] *infml* to repeatedly ask (someone) questions, esp. indirect ones, in the hope of finding out something: *I tried to pump him for details of their other contracts.*

pump[3] *n* a flat light shoe for dancing, etc. —see PAIR (USAGE)

pump-ac·tion /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* using the action of a pump to force something in or out: *a pump-action shotgun/can* (e.g. of HAIRSPRAY)

pum·per·nick·el /ˈpʌmpənɪkəl‖ˈpʌmpər-/ *n* [U] a heavy dark brown bread, usu. cut into thin pieces before being sold

pump·kin /ˈpʌmpkɨn/ *n* [C;U] (a plant with) a very large dark yellow roundish fruit that grows on the ground, often used in PIES and also to make LANTERNS at Hallowe'en. In the US, **pumpkin pie** is usu. eaten as part of Thanksgiving Day dinner. In the story of Cinderella, the FAIRY GODMOTHER changed a pumpkin into a COACH to take Cinderella to the BALL, and people sometimes make jokes about turning into a pumpkin at midnight, esp. if they have been out late at a party etc., because this is what happened to Cinderella's coach. —see also CINDERELLA and see colour picture on page 357

pump room /ˈ· ·/ *n* a room at a SPA where people come to drink the water

pun[1] /pʌn/ also **play on words**— *n* an amusing use of a word or phrase that has two meanings, or of words with the same sound but different meanings: *He made this pun: "Seven days without water make one weak."* (=1 week) | *to groan at a bad pun*

pun[2] *v* **-nn-** [I **(on, upon)**] to make puns: *He punned on the two meanings of "one" and the similarity of "weak" and "week".* —see also PUNSTER

punch[1] /pʌntʃ/ *v* **1** [T **(in,on)**] to hit (someone or something) hard with the FIST (closed hand): *He punched the man in the chest/on the nose.* —see SLAP[2] (USAGE) **2** [T] to use a PUNCH[3] to cut (a hole) in (something): *The ticket-collector punched my ticket/punched a hole in my ticket.* **3** *AmE* to move (cattle) from one place to another —**~er** *n*

punch in, punch out *phr v* [I] *AmE for* CLOCK **in,** CLOCK **out**

punch sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *BrE infml* to hit (someone) repeatedly —see also PUNCH-UP

punch[2] *n* **1** [C **(in, on)**] a quick strong blow made with the FIST (closed hand): *I'd like to give that man a punch on the nose.* | *a straight punch to the jaw* —see also **pack a punch** (PACK[2]) **2** [S;U] *apprec* forcefulness; effective power: *His speech lacked punch.* —see also PUNCHY **3 pull one's punches** to express one's bad opinion more gently than is deserved

punch[3] *n* a metal tool for cutting holes: *a ticket punch*

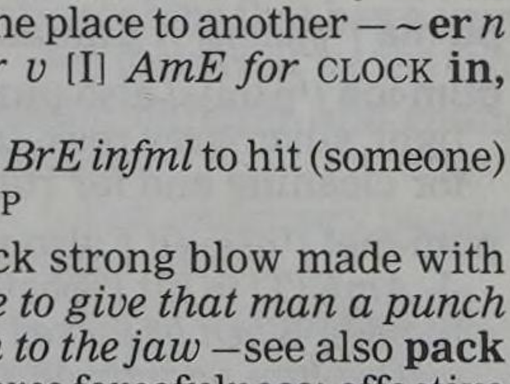
punch[4] *n* [C *usu. sing.*;U] (*often in comb.*) a drink made from fruit juice, sugar, water, etc., and usu. wine or other alcohol: *a bowl of rum punch*

Punch[1] a British weekly magazine (1841–1992) known for its humorous articles and its LITERARY criticism

Punch[2] *n* **as pleased/proud as Punch** extremely pleased/proud

Punch and Ju·dy show /ˌpʌntʃ ən ˈdʒuːdi ʃəʊ/ *n* (esp. in Britain) a PUPPET show for children in which the main character Punch (sometimes called Mr Punch) fights humorously with his wife Judy. Punch is an ugly character with a long nose who enjoys hitting people, esp. Judy or their baby, with his stick. Punch and Judy shows are TRADITIONAL events in British life and are usu. performed at seaside and holiday towns in summer.

Punch and Judy



punch ball /ˈ· ·/ also **punch·bag** /ˈpʌntʃbæg/ ‖ also **punching bag** /ˈ·· ·/*AmE*— *n* a large leather ball or bag, fixed on a spring or hung from a rope, which is punched (PUNCH[1]) for exercise

punch bowl /ˈ· ·/ *n* a large bowl in which PUNCH[4] is served

punch-drunk /ˈ· ·/ *adj* **1** (of a professional fighter) suffering brain damage from repeated blows on the head in BOXING **2** *infml* very confused, esp. by continual misfortune or bad treatment

punched card /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **punch card** /ˈ· ·/— *n* a card with a pattern of holes in it for putting into a computer, each of which carries a particular piece of information to the computer

punch line /ˈ· ·/ *n* the last few words of a joke or story, that give meaning to the whole and cause amusement or surprise

punch-up /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE infml* a fight —see also PUNCH **up**

punch·y /ˈpʌntʃi/ *adj sl* having a forceful, effective quality; INCISIVE —**-iness** *n* [U]

punc·til·i·o /pʌŋkˈtɪliəʊ/ *n* **-os** [C;U] *fml* (an example of) careful attention paid to every small exact detail of ceremonial behaviour, performance of duties, etc.

punc·til·i·ous /pʌŋkˈtɪliəs/ *adj fml, usu. apprec* (of a person or behaviour) very exact and particular about details of behaviour or duty —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

punc·tu·al /ˈpʌŋktʃuəl/ *adj* not late; happening, doing something, etc., at the exact time; PROMPT: *She's never punctual for appointments so you can expect to be kept waiting.* | *The cat makes a punctual appearance at mealtimes.* —**~ly** *adv* : *Be there punctually at ten o'clock.* —**~ity** /ˌpʌŋktʃuˈælɨti/ *n* [U]

punc·tu·ate /ˈpʌŋktʃueɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to divide (written matter) into sentences, phrases, etc., with PUNCTUATION MARKS **2** [**(with)** *usu. pass.*] to break the flow of, repeatedly: *The tense silence was punctuated by bursts of gunfire.* | *He punctuated his solemn remarks with a few well-chosen jokes.*

punc·tu·a·tion /ˌpʌŋktʃuˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U] the marks used in punctuating a piece of writing: *A piece of writing without any punctuation is difficult to understand.*

punctuation marks

.	full stop *BrE*/ period *AmE*	?	question mark
,	comma	!	exclamation mark *BrE*/ exclamation point *AmE*
;	semi-colon	( )	bracket
:	colon	“ ”	quotation marks

punctuation mark /ˌ··ˈ·· ·/ *n* a sign used in punctuating, e.g. a COMMA a QUESTION MARK, or a HYPHEN: *Make sure you put the proper punctuation marks in your essay.*

punc·ture[1] /ˈpʌŋktʃəʳ/ *n* a small hole made with a sharp point through a soft surface, esp. in a tyre: *I'm sorry I'm late; my car/I had a puncture.* | *to mend a puncture*

▷ USAGE In the US, most people would use FLAT[1] (4) to mean a puncture as well as not having enough air in the tyre: *She ran over some glass on her bicycle and got a flat.*◁

puncture[2] *v* **1** [I; T] to (cause to) get a puncture: *A nail on the road punctured the tyre.* | *Her rubber ball punctured when it fell on a prickly bush.* | *He's in hospital with a punctured lung.* **2** [T] to destroy as if by bursting: *His unexpected failure punctured his self-importance.*

pun·dit /ˈpʌndɨt/ *n sometimes humor* a person who knows a great deal about a particular subject, esp. one whose opinion is asked for by others: *political pundits*

pun·gent /ˈpʌndʒənt/ *adj* **1** (of a taste or smell) strong, sharp, and stinging: *the pungent aroma of garlic* **2** (of speech or writing) producing a sharp direct effect: *pungent remarks about my lateness* —**~ly** *adv* —**-gency** *n* [U]

pun·ish /ˈpʌnɪʃ/ *v* [T] **1 a** [(**for**)] to cause (someone who has broken the law or done something wrong) to suffer, e.g. by sending them to prison or making them do something that they do not want to do: *Motorists should be severely punished for dangerous driving.* | *Their mother punished them for their rudeness.* | *It wasn't your fault; stop punishing yourself!* (=stop blaming yourself) **b** to cause someone to suffer for (a crime or fault): *Dangerous driving should be severely punished.* **2** to deal roughly with: *to punish one's opponent at golf* | *to punish an engine*

pun·ish·a·ble /ˈpʌnɪʃəbəl/ *adj* [(**by**)] that may be punished by law: *a punishable offence* | *Murder is punishable by death in some countries.*

pun·ish·ing[1] /ˈpʌnɪʃɪŋ/ *adj infml* that makes one thoroughly tired and weak: *a long, punishing climb* | *a punishing workload* —~**ly** *adv*

punishing[2] *n* [S] *infml* a case of rough or damaging treatment: *Your car seems to have taken a punishing.*

pun·ish·ment /ˈpʌnɪʃmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of punishing or process of being punished: *We are determined that the terrorists will not escape punishment.* | *capital punishment* (=punishment by being officially killed) **2** [C (**for**)] a way in which a person is punished: *She sent her son to bed early as a punishment (for breaking the window).* | *He took his punishment like a man.* (=bravely) | *to mete out punishments* | *a harsh|severe|unjust punishment* **3** [U] *infml* rough treatment; damage: *With five active children in the house, the furniture had taken a lot of punishment.* **4 Let the punishment fit the crime** *quote* a phrase from the OPERA *Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan, often used when saying that a person should be punished very severely for a serious crime —compare PENALTY

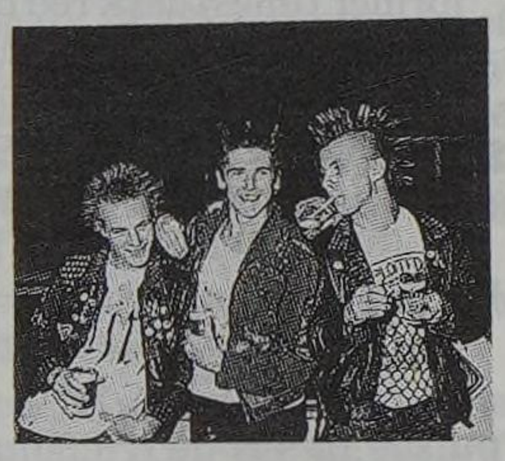
pu·ni·tive /ˈpjuːnətɪv/ *adj* **1** intended as punishment: *to take punitive action against offenders* **2** very severe; causing hardship: *punitive taxation* —~**ly** *adv*

Pun·jab /ˈpʌndʒɑːb/ [*the*] an area in Pakistan and NW India which contains the city of Amritsar, a holy place for followers of the Sikh religion. Many Sikhs would like to have independence from India, and there has been fighting in the Punjab about this.

Pun·ja·bi , Panjabi /pʌnˈdʒɑːbi/ *n* **1** [C] a person from the main group of people living in the Punjab in India **2** [U] their language —**Punjabi, Panjabi** *adj*

punk[1] /pʌŋk/ *adj* **1** [A] of a movement among certain young people in the 1970s and 1980s who were opposed to the values of money-based society and who expressed this esp. in loud violent music (**punk rock**), strange clothing, and hair of unusual colours **2** *AmE rare sl* in poor health

punks



punk[2] *n* **1** also **punk rock·er** /ˌ· ˈ··/— someone who follows punk styles in music, dress, etc. **2** *AmE derog sl* an esp. young man or boy, esp. one who fights and breaks the law (often in the phrase **young/little punk**) **3** *AmE* a substance that will burn without a flame, used to light FIREWORKS etc.

pun·kah /ˈpʌŋkə/ *n IndE & PakE* a FAN hung across a room and swung backwards and forwards by pulling a rope, used, esp. formerly, in hot countries

punk rock /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a style of ROCK[3] music played very fast and loud with often violent and offensive words, made popular in the 1970s by groups such as the Sex Pistols

pun·net /ˈpʌnət/ *n esp. BrE* (the amount contained in) a small square basket in which soft fruits are sold: *a punnet of strawberries*

pun·ster /ˈpʌnstəʳ/ *n* a person who makes PUNS

punt[1] /pʌnt/ *n* **1** a long narrow flat-bottomed river boat with square ends, moved by someone standing on it and pushing a long pole against the bottom of the river **2** (in FOOTBALL (2)) a kick in which the ball is kicked after being dropped from the hands: *a punt which went wide of the goalposts*

punt[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to go or take by punt: *to punt (the family) up the river* **2** [T] to move (a boat) by pushing a pole against the bottom of the river **3** [I;T] (in FOOTBALL (2)) to kick a ball that has been dropped from the hands: *He punted the ball forty yards.*

punt·er /ˈpʌntəʳ/ *n esp. BrE* **1** someone who punts **2** *infml* a person who makes a BET on the result of a horse race **3** *infml* the user of a product or service; customer: *We've got to cater for the needs of the punter.* **4** *BrE infml* ‖ **john** *AmE sl* —a PROSTITUTE's customer

pu·ny /ˈpjuːni/ *adj derog* small and weak; poorly developed: *puny little arms and legs* —**niness** *n* [U]

pup[1] /pʌp/ *n* **1** a young SEAL[1] or OTTER **2** a PUPPY —see also **sell someone a pup** (SELL[1])

pup[2] *v* **-pp-** [I] *esp. tech* to give birth to pups

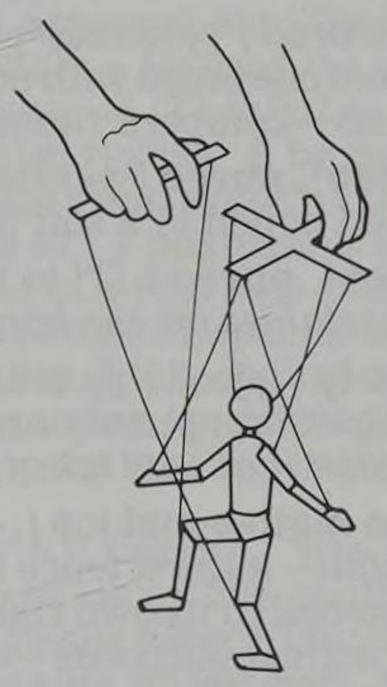
pu·pa /ˈpjuːpə/ *n* **-pas** *or* **-pae** /piː/ (the state or form of) an insect in the middle stage of its development to a full-grown form, contained in and protected by a hard or soft covering —compare CHRYSALIS, COCOON[1] —**pal** *adj* : *in the pupal stage*

pu·pil[1] /ˈpjuːpəl/ *n* a person, esp. a child, who is being taught: *The school has about 500 pupils.* | *one of my best pupils* —see STUDENT (USAGE)

pupil[2] *n* the small black round opening in the middle of the coloured part of the eye, through which light passes —see picture at EYE

pup·pet /ˈpʌpɨt/ *n* **1** also **marionette**— a toylike jointed figure of a person or animal that is made to move by someone pulling wires or strings at a theatre performance (a **puppet show**) **2** also **glove puppet**— a toylike hollow cloth figure of a person or animal moved by putting one's hand inside it **3** *often derog* a person or group that is controlled by someone else: *Are we the puppets of fate?* | *a* **puppet government**

puppet



pup·pe·teer /ˌpʌpɨˈtɪəʳ/ *n* an entertainer who performs with puppets

pup·py /ˈpʌpi/ also **pup**— *n* **1** a young dog **2** *old-fash* a foolish self-important young man

puppy fat /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **baby fat** *AmE*— *n* [U] *infml, often euph* fatness in boys and girls that usually disappears as they grow older

puppy love /ˈ·· ·/ also **calf love**— *n* [U] *sometimes derog* a young boy's or girl's love for esp. an older person of the opposite sex, which does not last long or lead to sexual relations

pup tent /ˈ· ·/ *n* a tent for two people, with ends shaped like an A and using poles and ropes to hold it up

pur·blind /ˈpɜːblaɪnd‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj fml or lit* dull; stupid

Pur·cell /ˈpɜːsəl‖ˈpɜːr-/, **Henry** (1659–95) an English COMPOSER who is remembered esp. for his OPERA *Dido and Aeneas*

Purcell Room /ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] a room in the South Bank Arts Centre in London, used esp. for performances of CHAMBER MUSIC and named after Henry Purcell

pur·chase[1] /ˈpɜːtʃɨs‖ˈpɜːr-/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to buy: *to secure a loan to purchase a new car* | *The* **purchasing power** *of the dollar* (=the amount it will buy) *has declined.* **2** to gain at the cost of effort or loss: *They purchased life at the expense of honour.* —**chasable** *adj* —**chaser** *n*

purchase[2] *n* **1** [U] *fml* the act of buying: *He gave his son some money for the purchase of his school books.* —see also HIRE PURCHASE **2** [C *often pl.*] *fml* **a** an act of buying: *She made several purchases in the dress shop.* **b** an article that has just been bought: *Do you wish us to deliver your purchases?* **3** [S;U] a firm hold for pulling or raising something: *The climber tried to gain a purchase with his foot on a narrow ledge.*

purchase tax /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] (in Britain) a tax charged on all goods except those necessary for life, such as food, and collected by being added to the price in shops (after 1973 changed to VAT in Britain) —compare SALES TAX

pur·dah /ˈpɜːdə, -dɑː‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* [U] *IndE & PakE* (esp. among Muslims) the system of keeping women out of public view

pure /pjʊəʳ/ *adj* **1** not mixed with anything else: *"Is this sweater made of pure wool?" "No, it's 60% wool and 40% acrylic."* | *pure silver* | *a horse of pure Arab breed* **2** clean; free from dirt, dust, bacteria, or any harmful matter: *The air by the sea is pure and healthy.* | *pure drinking water* **3** free from evil, and esp. without sexual thoughts or experience: *I'm sure his motives were pure.* | *a pure young girl* **4** (of colour or sound) clear; unmixed with other colours or sounds: *a cloudless sky of the purest blue* **5** [A *no comp.*] *infml* complete; thorough; only: *By pure chance/coincidence my boss was flying on the same plane as me.* | *The error was due to carelessness* **pure and simple**. (=only carelessness) **6** [A] (of an art or branch of study) considered only for its own nature as a skill or exercise of the mind, separate from any use that might be made of it: *pure science* —compare APPLIED; see also IMPURE, PURELY, PURIFY **7 as pure as the driven snow** very pure in character or moral behaviour, sometimes used to mean the opposite in conversation: *He makes himself out to be as pure as the driven snow, but some of his dealings have been, quite simply, dishonest.* **8 to the pure all things are pure** *saying from the Bible, usu. humor* people who are sexually INNOCENT do not understand rude things —~**ness** *n* [U]

pure·blood·ed /ˌpjʊəˈblʌdɨd◂‖ˌpjʊər-/ *adj* descended from one race with no mixture of other races: *pureblooded Native Americans* —compare PEDIGREE (1), THOROUGHBRED

pure·bred /ˈpjʊəbred‖ˈpjʊər-/ *n, adj* (an animal) descended from one breed with no mixture of other breeds: *purebred hens* —compare THOROUGHBRED

pu·ree[1]**, purée** /ˈpjʊəreɪ‖pjʊˈreɪ/ *n* [C;U] (*often in comb.*) food boiled to a soft half-liquid mass: *an apple puree*

puree[2] **,purée** *v* [T] to make into a puree: *She pureed the vegetables for the baby.*

pure·ly /ˈpjʊəli‖ˈpjʊərli/ *adv* completely; wholly; only: *I helped him* **purely and simply** *out of friendship.* | *a decision that was taken for purely political reasons*

pure math·e·mat·ics /ˌ· ··ˈ··/ also **pure maths** /ˌ· ˈ·/ *BrE infml*— *n* the science of numbers treated as a subject of interest in its own right and not originally developed for practical purposes —compare APPLIED MATHEMATICS

pur·ga·tion /pɜːˈgeɪʃən‖pɜːr-/ *n* [U] *fml* the act of purging (PURGE[1])

pur·ga·tive /ˈpɜːgətɪv‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n, adj* (a medicine) that causes the bowels to empty: *This fruit often has a purgative effect.*

pur·ga·to·ry /ˈpɜːgətəri‖ˈpɜːrgətɔːri/ *n* [U] **1** (*often cap.*) (esp. according to the Roman Catholic religion) a state or place in which the soul of a dead person must be made pure by suffering for wrong-doing on Earth, until it is fit to enter Heaven —compare LIMBO[1] **2** *often humor* a place, state, or time of great suffering: *It's purgatory listening to Tim's attempts to play the guitar.* —**rial** /ˌpɜːgəˈtɔːriəl◂‖ˌpɜːr-/ *adj*

purge[1] /pɜːdʒ‖pɜːrdʒ/ *v* [T] **1** to get rid of (unwanted people) in (a state, political party, etc.) by removal from office, driving out of the country, killing, etc.: *to purge a political party* [+*obj*+**of**] *to purge the party of dissidents* [+*obj*+**from**] *to purge dissidents from the party* **2** [(**of, from**)] *esp. lit* to make clean and free from (something evil): *to purge one's soul from sin* | *to purge one's spirit of hatred* **3** *law* to remove the bad effects of (an act of wrong-doing) for oneself: *The judge ordered him to purge his contempt by apologizing to the court.* **4** *tech or old-fash* to clear waste matter from (the bowels)

purge[2] *n* **1** an act or set of actions intended to get rid of unwanted members of a group suddenly, often unjustly, and often by force: *The new president carried out a purge of disloyal army officers.* **2** *tech or old-fash* a medicine that clears the bowels of waste matter

pu·ri·fy /ˈpjʊərɨfaɪ/ *v* [T (**of**)] to make PURE (esp. 2): *This salt has been purified for use in medicine.* —**fier** *n* : *an air purifier* —**fication** /ˌpjʊərɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *ritual purification*

Pu·rim /ˈpʊərɪm/ a JEWISH holiday in memory of the Jews' escape from the destruction planned for them after Mordecai (a Jew) refused to lie on the floor in front of his Persian ruler. The story is told in the book of Esther in the Bible.

pur·ist /ˈpjʊərɨst/ *n* someone who is always (too) careful to practise and preserve what they regard as the correct way of doing something, esp. in matters of grammar, use of words, etc.: *A purist would say "To whom does this belong?", but nowadays "Who does this belong to?" is much more common.* —**ism** *n* [U]

pu·ri·tan /ˈpjʊərɨtən/ *adj, n usu. derog* (of or being) a person who has rather hard fixed standards of behaviour and self-control, and thinks pleasure is unnecessary or wrong: *his puritan beliefs* | *He's too much of a puritan to enjoy dancing.*

Puritan *n, adj* (a member) of a PROTESTANT religious group in the 16th and 17th centuries who wished to make religion simpler and less ceremonial. Most broke away from the Church of England. They were treated badly in England at the end of the 17th century and many went to America to find religious freedom. In the US, Puritan beliefs have had a strong influence on the American way of life.

pu·ri·tan·i·cal /ˌpjʊərɨˈtænɪkəl◂/ *adj derog* like a puritan: *a puritanical father who wouldn't let his children watch television* —**cally** /kli/ *adv*

pu·ri·tan·is·m /ˈpjʊərɨtənɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** (*cap.*) the beliefs and practices of the Puritans **2** *often derog* living according to severe and demanding rules, esp. in matters of religion and morals: *She went to live with her boyfriend as a protest against her family's puritanism.*

pu·ri·ty /ˈpjʊərɨti/ *n* [U] the quality or state of being pure —opposite **impurity**

purl[1] /pɜːl‖pɜːrl/ *n* [U] *tech* the second of the two main stitches in knitting (KNIT), made by doing an ordinary stitch backwards: *a purl stitch* | *three plain, two purl* — compare KNIT[2], PLAIN[4]

purl[2] *v* [I;T] *tech* (usu. in instructions) to use the purl stitch (on): *Knit one, purl one.* | *Purl (for) three rows.* —compare KNIT[1]

purl[3] *v* [I] *lit* (of a small stream) to flow with a low gentle continuous noise

purl·er /ˈpɜːləʳ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* [S] *BrE old-fash infml* a heavy fall, usu. head first: *He* **came a purler**. (=fell heavily)

pur·lieus /ˈpɜːljuːz‖ˈpɜːrluːz/ *n* [(*the*) P (**of**)] *lit or pomp* the area in and around a place

pur·loin /pɜːˈlɔɪn, ˈpɜːlɔɪn‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [T] *fml or humor* to steal (esp. something of small value)

pur·ple[1] /ˈpɜːpəl‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* of the colour purple

purple[2] *n* **1** [U] a dark colour made of a mixture of red and blue —compare MAUVE, VIOLET **2** [*the*] *esp. lit* (in former times) dark red or purple garments worn only by people of very high rank: *He was* **born to the purple**. (=born into a royal family)

purple heart /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n BrE infml* a small PILL containing a drug (AMPHETAMINE) that causes excitement, often taken by drug ADDICTS

Purple Heart *n* a MEDAL (=a coinlike piece of metal) given as an honour to be worn by soldiers of the US wounded in battle

purple pas·sage /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **purple patch** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* a splendid or too grand-sounding part in the middle of a piece of writing

pur·plish /ˈpɜːplɪʃ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* slightly purple: *purplish blue*

pur·port[1] /pɜːˈpɔːt‖pɜːrˈpɔːrt/ *v* [T+*to-v*;~~*obj*~~] *fml* to claim to be; have an (intended) appearance of being: *The orders, which purported to be signed by the general, were an enemy trick.*

pur·port[2] /ˈpɜːpɔːt, -pət‖ˈpɜːrpɔːrt/ *n* [U (**of**)] *fml* the general meaning or intention of someone's words or actions: *The purport of the message seemed to be this: Work harder or find another job.*

pur·pose[1] /ˈpɜːpəs‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C] an intention or plan; a person's reason for an action: *What was the purpose of her visit?* | *Did you come to London to see your family, or for business purposes?* | *He's registered as a single parent, for tax purposes.* **2** [C] a use; effect; result: *Don't waste your money; put it to some good purpose.* | *I haven't got a pen, but a pencil will* **answer/serve the** *same* **purpose**. (=will do what is needed) | *This computer is not quite as powerful as the other one, but* **for all practical purposes** (=in most cases) *it is just as good.* **3** [U] steady determined following of an aim: *a man of purpose* | *a sense of purpose* **4 on purpose: a** intentionally: "I'm sorry *I stepped on your toe; it was an accident." "It wasn't! You did it on purpose."* **b** with a particular stated intention:

I came here on purpose to see you. **5 to little/no/some/good purpose** with little/no/some/good result **6 to the purpose** *old-fash* useful; very much connected with the subject —see also PURPOSELY **7 accidentally on purpose** *BrE infml* with conscious intention but also making something appear to be an accident: *He dropped the vase accidentally on purpose because he hated it.*

purpose[2] *v* [T] *fml* to have as one's intention: [+*to-v*/*v-ing*] *He purposes to visit America/visiting America.*

purpose-built /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj esp. BrE* originally made for a particular use: *The architect has designed purpose-built flats for old people.*

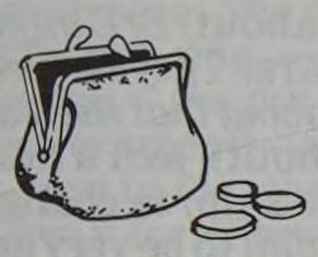
pur·pose·ful /ˈpɜːpəsfəl‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* (of people or behaviour) having a clear aim; determined: *He went out with a purposeful air.* —~**ly** *adv*

pur·pose·less /ˈpɜːpəsləs‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adj* aimless; meaningless —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

pur·pose·ly /ˈpɜːpəsli‖ˈpɜːr-/ *adv* intentionally: *I purposely left it where he would see it.*

purr /pɜːʳ/ *v* **1** [I] to make the low continuous sound produced by a pleased cat: *The cat purred loudly.* | (fig) *The big car purred along the road.* **2** [I] (of a person) to show quiet happiness in a pleasant low voice **3** [T] to express or say in this way: *"Come again, won't you?" she purred.* —**purr** *n*

purse



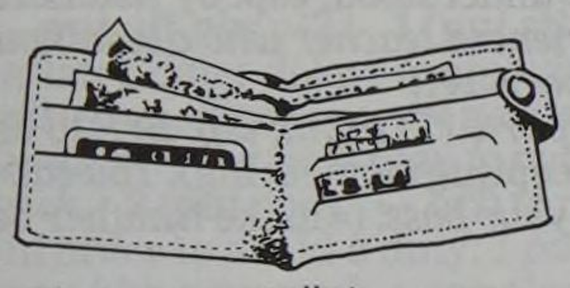
purse *BrE*/
change purse *AmE*



purse *BrE*/
wallet *AmE*



handbag esp. *BrE*/
purse *AmE*



wallet

purse[1] /pɜːs‖pɜːrs/ *n* **1** *BrE* a small flattish bag, usu. made of leather or plastic, used esp.by women **a** for carrying coins (*AmE* **coin purse**) **b** (esp. divided into two parts) for carrying both coins and paper money (*AmE* **wallet**) **2** [C] *AmE* a woman's HANDBAG **3** [S] an amount of money to spend: *That beautiful picture is* **beyond my purse**. (=I can't afford it) | *The first prize will be a purse of $1000.* —see also PRIVY PURSE **4 you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear** you cannot make something good from material that is of bad quality

purse[2] *v* [T (UP)] to bring (esp. the lips) together in little folds: *She pursed (up) her lips with disgust.*

purs·er /ˈpɜːsəʳ‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* an officer on a ship who keeps the ship's accounts and is also in charge of the travellers' rooms, comfort, etc.

purse strings /ˈ· ·/ *n* **hold the purse strings** to control the spending of the money of a family, a firm, etc.

pur·su·ance /pəˈsjuːəns‖pərˈsuː-/ *n* **in (the) pursuance of** *fml* in the process of performing: *He was wounded in the pursuance of his duty.*

pur·sue /pəˈsjuː‖pərˈsuː/ *v* [T] **1** to follow, esp. in order to catch, kill, or defeat: *The police are pursuing an escaped prisoner.* | *The tourists were pursued by beggars.* | (fig.) *Bad luck has pursued us all through the year.* **2** to continue steadily with; carry on: *She is pursuing her studies at the university.* | *He was losing the argument, so he said, "I'd rather not pursue the matter".* | *The government is pursuing a policy of non-intervention.*

pur·su·er /pəˈsjuːəʳ‖pərˈsuːər/ *n* a person or animal that PURSUES (1): *The deer ran faster than its pursuers.*

pur·suit /pəˈsjuːt‖pərˈsuːt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of pursuing: *The police car raced through the streets in pursuit of another car.* | *The pop stars ran from the theatre to their car, with dozens of fans* **in hot pursuit**. (=close behind them) | *a pursuit vehicle* (=used for chasing the enemy) | (fig.) *The government is selling off the railways, in pursuit of* (=following) *its policy of privatization.* **2** [C] *fml* an activity to which one gives one's time, whether as work or for pleasure

pu·ru·lent /ˈpjʊərələnt/ *adj med* containing or producing PUS (=poisonous yellow matter) in the body —**-lence** *n* [U]

pur·vey /pɜːˈveɪ‖pɜːr-/ *v* [T (**to**)] *fml or tech* to supply (food or other goods) as a trade —~**or** *n*

pur·view /ˈpɜːvjuː‖ˈpɜːr-/ *n* [U (**of**)] *fml or lit* the limit of one's concern, activity, or knowledge: *facts which fall outside the purview of this inquiry.*

pus /pʌs/ *n* [U] a thick yellowish liquid produced in an infected wound or poisoned part of the body

push[1] /pʊʃ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to use sudden or steady pressure in order to move (someone or something) forward, away from oneself, or to a different position: *He pushed me, and I fell into the water.* | *She pushed the chairs out of the way.* | *You stop the machine by pushing this button.* | *Don't push: wait for your turn to get on the bus.* | *You push it from behind, and I'll pull it.* | *Please push the door shut/push the door to.* (=into a shut position) **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*;T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to make (one's way) by pushing: *She pushed past me.* | *He pushed his way to the front of the crowd.* **3** [T (**into**)] to try to force (someone) to do something by continual urging; put pressure on: *I'm not pushing you; if you don't want the job, don't take it.* | *He pushed her into making a decision.* | *Don't push yourself too hard* (=work too hard) *or you'll get ill.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *His parents are pushing him to study medicine.* **4** [T] *infml* to try to draw attention to (someone or something) e.g. by advertising, in order to gain customers, support, approval, etc.: *The company are pushing their new product.* | *He used the sales conference to push his latest ideas.* **5** [T] *infml* to sell (drugs that are not legal) —see also PUSHER **6 be pushing** *infml* to be nearly (a stated age): *You wouldn't think so to look at her, but she's pushing 60.* **7 push one's luck** *infml* to take a risk, esp. because of a previous success **8 push the ˈboat out** *BrE infml* to make a special effort to make something enjoyable, esp. by spending more money than usual: *They really pushed the boat out for their daughter's wedding.* —compare PRESS[1], PULL[1]; see also PUSHED

push ahead/forward/on *phr v* [I (**with**)] **1** to continue one's journey or march; ADVANCE **2** to continue with a plan or activity, esp. in a steady determined way: *Despite opposition, they are pushing ahead with their scheme for a new airport.*

push along *phr v* [I] *infml* to leave: *It's getting late; we must be pushing along.*

push sbdy. **around** *phr v* [T] *infml* to treat roughly and unfairly, esp. in order to force obedience; ORDER **about**

push for sthg. *phr v* [T *pass. rare*] to demand urgently and forcefully; try to get: *People living near the airport are pushing for new restrictions on night flights.*

push forward *phr v* **1** [T] (**push** sbdy. **forward**) *often derog* to try to attract attention to (someone, esp. oneself) **2** [I] to PUSH **ahead**

push in *phr v* [I] *infml* **1** to join a line in front of other people already waiting **2** to interrupt rudely

push off *phr v* [I] **1** [*usu. imperative*] *infml* to go away: *What are you doing in my garden? Push off!* **2** to start a journey in a small boat

push on *phr v* [I] to PUSH **ahead**

push sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to dismiss or get rid of, often unfairly

push sbdy./sthg. **through** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] to cause the acceptance or success of (a person or thing) by means of forceful pressure or effort: *They pushed the legislation through (Parliament) without much discussion.* | *The teacher pushed the student through the examination.*

push sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to cause to increase at a steady rate: *War in the Gulf pushed up the price of oil.* **2 push up the daisies** *humor* to be dead and buried

push[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of pushing: *They gave the car a push to start it.* **2** [C] a forceful, often planned effort to gain a desired result: *a big advertising push to publicize our new product* **3** [U] *infml, usu. apprec* the active will to succeed, esp. by forcing oneself and one's wishes on others —see also PUSHY **4 at a push** *infml, esp. BrE* if really necessary: *I can finish the work by next month at a push.* **5 give/get the push** *sl* to dismiss/be dismissed from a job **6 if/when it comes to the push** if/when there is a moment of special need: *If it came to the push we could always borrow a bit more money from the bank.* —compare PULL[2]

push-bike /ˈpʊʃbaɪk/ *n BrE infml* a bicycle

push-but·ton /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* [A] operated by a button (**push**

button) that one presses with the finger: *This machine has a push-button starter.* | *a push-button car radio* | (fig.) *push-button warfare* (=by means of explosives that can be fired over very long distances, not by soldiers fighting with ordinary weapons)

push·cart /ˈpʊʃkɑːt‖-kɑːrt/ *n* a small cart pushed by hand, used e.g. by a street trader

push·chair /ˈpʊʃ-tʃeəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **stroller** *esp.AmE*– *n* a small chair on wheels for pushing a small child about –see picture at PRAM

pushed /pʊʃt/ *adj* [F] *infml* **1** [(**for**)] having difficulty in finding enough (money, time, etc.): *I'm always rather pushed for money by the end of the month.* [+*to-v*] *You'll be pushed to finish the job by this evening.* **2** having no free time; busy: *I'd like to stop for a chat, but I'm rather pushed today.*

push·er /ˈpʊʃəʳ/ *n derog* **1** a person who sells illegal drugs **2** *infml* a PUSHY person **3** *BrE* a small tool for pushing food onto a spoon at meals, used by very young children

Push·kin /ˈpʊʃkɪn/, **Al·ek·san·dr** /ˌælɪgˈzɑːndəʳ‖-ˈzæn-/ (1799–1837) a Russian poet considered to be the FOUNDER of modern Russian poetry, whose best-known work is *Eugene Onegin*

push·o·ver /ˈpʊʃˌəʊvəʳ/ *n* [S] *infml* **1** something that is very easy to do or win: *The exam was a pushover* **2** [(**for**)] someone who is easily influenced or defeated (by): *Charles is a pushover for girls with blue eyes.*

push-start /ˈ· ·/ *n* the act of pushing a vehicle to turn the engine and so make the vehicle go –**push-start** *v* : *The battery was flat so we had to push-start the car.*

push-up /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE for* PRESS-UP

push·y /ˈpʊʃi/ also **push·ing** /ˈpʊʃɪŋ/– *adj usu. derog* showing forceful determination to get things done and make people accept one's wishes; ASSERTIVE: *He's not really pushy enough to succeed in business.* **–-ily** *adv* **–-iness** *n* [U]

pu·sil·lan·i·mous /ˌpjuːsɪˈlænɪməs/ *adj fml* cowardly and weak; frightened of taking the slightest risk – **~ly** *adv* **–-mity** /ˌpjuːsɪləˈnɪmɪti/ *n* [U]

puss /pʊs/ *n infml* (a name for) a cat: *Here puss, puss, puss!*

Puss in Boots /ˌ· · ˈ·/ a children's story, also a PANTOMIME, about a clever cat who wore BOOTS and who made his owner rich

pus·sy[1] /ˈpʊsi/ also **pus·sy·cat** /ˈpʊsiˌkæt/– *n infml* (a name for) a cat (used esp. by or to children)

pussy[2] *n taboo sl* **1** the female sex organs **2** *AmE* SISSY

pus·sy·foot /ˈpʊsifʊt/ *v* [I (ABOUT, AROUND)] *infml derog* to be too careful and frightened to express one's opinions, take strong action, etc.: *It's no good pussyfooting around – they should just lock these people up!*

pussy wil·low /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] (a tree with) bunches of small soft furry white or greyish flowers on stems, often used for decoration

pus·tule /ˈpʌstjuːl‖-tʃuːl/ *n med* a small raised spot on the skin containing poisonous matter

put[1] /pʊt/ *v* **put,** *present participle* **putting** [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to move, set, place, lay, or fix in, on, or to a stated place: *Put the box on the table.* | *Put the chair nearer the fire.* | *You put too much salt in this soup.* | *Put the toy back in its box.* | *Put your hand over your mouth when you cough.* | *Put that newspaper down while I'm talking to you!* | *They were put on a plane and sent back to their own country.* | *He put the children to bed.* | *He put a match to his cigarette.* (=lit it) | *She put her head round the door* (=looked into the room) *and asked if we were coming.* | (fig.) *The prisoner was* **put on trial**/**put to death**. (=killed) | (fig.) *Whatever* **put that idea into your head**? | (fig.) *Their generosity* **put us to shame.** (=made us feel ashamed) | *I know it was a dishonest thing to do, but* **put yourself in my place**/**position.** (=imagine being me) *What would you have done?* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cause to be in the stated condition: *He put his books in order.* | *"You've made a mistake." "I'll* **put it right** *at once."* | *She's put her knowledge of French to good use.* | *His boring lessons always put me to sleep.* | *The unexpected delay put me in a bad mood.* **3** [+ *obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to cause (something) to have an effect or influence; APPLY: *They are intending to put pressure on the government to change its mind.* | *Don't try to put the blame on me – it wasn't my fault.* | *It's time we* **put an end**/**a stop to** *these ridiculous rumours.* | *I'm sure you'll be able to do it if you* **put your mind to** *it.* | *They ought to put more money into the business*/*more effort into their work.* **4** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to express something in words: *She is – how shall I put it? – not exactly fat, but rather well-built.* | *His ideas were cleverly put.* | *She was trying to put her feelings into words.* | *There is – as today's papers put it – no satisfactory explanation for his outrageous comments.* | *It's a dangerous job,* **to put it mildly**. (=it is extremely dangerous) **5** [(**to, before**)] to express officially for judgment or decision: *The lawyer put several questions to the witness.* | *I'll put your suggestion before the management committee.* **6** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to write down; make (a written mark of some kind): *Put a cross opposite each mistake.* | *"What shall I put at the end of the sentence?" "Put a question mark."* **7** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to make busy; set to regular work: *Put all the boys to work.* | *We're putting extra staff on the job to make sure it gets finished.* **8** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] *tech* to guide or direct (a boat or horse) in a stated direction: *The captain put the ship into port for repairs.* **9** to throw a heavy metal ball (SHOT) as a form of sports competition **10 Put it there** *infml* (used esp. in coming to an agreement) Please shake hands with me **11 put paid to** *BrE* to ruin; finish completely: *The accident has put paid to his chances of taking part in the race.* –see also **keep**/**put something on ice** (ICE[1] (5)), **stay put** (STAY[1])

put about *phr v* **1** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **about**) *BrE infml* to spread (bad or false news); CIRCULATE: *They've been putting rumours about.* | *It's being put about that she was secretly married.* **2** [I;T (=**put** sthg. **about**)] *tech* **a** (of a ship) to change direction **b** to cause (a ship) to change direction **3 put oneself about** *BrE infml* to be very active, esp. sexually

put sthg. ↔ **across**/**over** *phr v* [T] to cause (one's ideas, feelings, etc.) to be understood, esp. by listeners; COMMUNICATE: *an inexperienced teacher who doesn't put his ideas*/*himself across very well*

put sthg. **across** sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml, esp. BrE* to deceive into believing or accepting (something): *You can't put that old excuse across your boss.* (=make him/her believe it)

put sthg. ↔ **aside** *phr v* [T] **1** [(**for**)] to save (esp. money), for later use or a special purpose: *We have some money put aside for a holiday.* **2** to pay no attention to; DISREGARD: *They have agreed to put aside their differences in the interests of winning the election.*

put sthg. **at** sthg. *phr v* [T] to guess to be (a certain number or amount): *I'd put her age at 33.* | *Official estimates put the damage done by the storm at over $10 million.*

put sbdy./sthg. ↔ **away** *phr v* [T] **1** to remove (something) to the place where it is usually kept: *Put the books away in the cupboard.* **2** to save (money) for later use; PUT **by** **3** *infml* to eat (a lot of food) **4** *euph* to place (someone) in prison or in a hospital for mad people: *People like that ought to be put away!* **5** *bibl* to end one's marriage to (one's wife) by law

put back *phr v* **1** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **back**) to delay: *The fire in the factory has put back production.* | *The meeting has been put back* (=its date has been moved) *to next week.* –compare PUT **forward** (2) **2** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **back**) to cause (a clock or watch) to show an earlier time – compare PUT **forward** (3) **3** [I;T] (=**put** sthg. ↔ **back**) *tech* **a** (of a ship) to return: *The ship put back to port.* **b** to cause (a ship) to return

put sthg. ↔ **by** *phr v* [T] to save (money) for later use: *Try to put a little bit by each week.*

put down *phr v* **1** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) to bring to an end or bring under control; QUELL: *The army put down all opposition.* | *to put down a riot* **2** [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *infml* to make (someone) feel unimportant; HUMILIATE –see also PUT-DOWN **3** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) *euph* to kill (an animal), esp. because it is old or ill **4** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) to record in writing: *Let me put down your telephone number.* **5** [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **down**) *BrE* to allow to leave a vehicle: *You needn't drive the car up to the house; just put me down here*/*at the gate.* **6** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) to pay (an amount) as part of the cost of something, with a promise to pay the rest later –see also DOWN PAYMENT **7** [I;T] (=**put** sthg. ↔ **down**) **a** (of an aircraft) to land **b** to land (an aircraft): *The engine failed and the pilot had to put (the plane) down in the sea.*

put sbdy. **down as** sthg. *phr v* [T] to guess (someone) to be or do (something): *I'd put him down as an ex-army man.*

put sbdy. **down for** sthg. *phr v* [T] to put (someone's name) on a list of people who **a** want to join (a competition, school, etc.): *She put her name down for the 100 metres race.* or **b** will give (money): *Put me down for £5.*

put sthg. **down to** sthg. *phr v* [T] to state or think that (something) is caused or explained by (something else): *I put his bad temper down to his recent illness.*

put sthg. ↔ **forth** *phr v* [T] *fml or lit* **1** to produce and send out: *In spring the bush put forth new leaves.* **2** to PUT **forward** (1)

put sbdy./sthg. ↔ **forward** *phr v* [T] **1** to offer for consideration; suggest: *They have put forward a plan for reducing the level of traffic.* | *May I put your name forward as a possible chairman of the committee?* **2** to move to an earlier date or time; advance: *The warm weather has put the harvest forward.* | *The meeting has been put forward to this week.* —compare PUT **back** (1) **3** to cause (a clock or watch) to show a later time: *The plane will soon be landing in Bombay – please remember to put your watches forward by five hours.* —compare PUT **back** (2) **4** to bring (someone) to public attention

put in *phr v* **1** [I (**at**)] (of a ship) to enter a port: *The ship puts in at Singapore and remains there for a day.* **2** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **in**) to make or send (a request or claim); SUBMIT: *If the goods were damaged in the post, you can put in a claim to the post office.* | *to put in an application* **3** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **in**) to do (work) or spend (time), esp. for a purpose: *She put in an hour's work on her project.* **4** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **in**) to interrupt by saying: *"Don't forget us," she put in.* **5** [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **in**) to elect (a government) —see also INPUT

put in for sthg. *phr v* [T] to make a formal request for; APPLY for: *They've put in for a pay rise|a government grant.*

put into sthg. *phr v* [T] (of a ship) to enter (a port): *The boat put into Sydney for supplies.*

put off *phr v* [T] **1** (**put** sthg./sbdy. ↔ **off**) to move to a later date; delay: [+*obj*|*v;ing*] *I'll have to put off my visit|put off going until next month.* | *We've invited them to dinner, but we'll have to put them off because the baby's sick.* **2** (**put** sbdy. ↔ **off**) to make excuses to (someone) in order to avoid a duty: *I put him off with a promise to pay him next week.* —see also PUT-OFF **3** (**put** sbdy. **off** (sthg.)) to discourage (someone) (from something): *She was trying to make a serious point, but people kept putting her off (her speech) by shouting.* | *Don't talk, it puts her off her game.* | *Their interruptions* **put him off his stride|stroke.** (=upset him, so that he stopped what he was doing or did it wrong) [+*v-ing*] *The smell put me off eating for a week!* **4** (**put** sbdy. **off** (sthg./sbdy.)) to cause (someone) to dislike (someone or something); REPEL: *His bad manners|bad breath put me right off (him).* —see also OFF-PUTTING **5** (**put** sbdy. ↔ **off**) to stop and allow (someone) to leave a vehicle or boat

put on *phr v* [T] **1** (**put** sthg. ↔ **on**) to cover (part of) the body with (esp. clothing); get dressed in: *She put her hat and coat on.* | *He put on his glasses to read the letter.* —opposite TAKE **off** (1); see DRESS (USAGE) **2** (**put** sthg. ↔ **on**) to cause (a light, an electrical apparatus, etc.) to operate by pressing or turning a button, SWITCH, etc.: *Put on the light|the radio.* | *Have you put the heating on?* **3** (**put** sthg. ↔ **on**) (of a person) to increase in (weight) and grow fatter: *I put on six pounds|a lot of weight while I was on holiday.* **4** (**put** sthg. **on** sthg.) to add (an amount) to the cost or rate of: *a tax increase that will put another 10p on the price of petrol* **5** *BrE* (**put** sthg. ↔ **on**) to provide in addition to existing services: *So many people wanted to go to the match that another train had to be put on.* **6** (**put** sthg. **on** sthg.) to state or guess (the price, value, etc.) of: *What price would you put on this fine old silver cup?* **7** (**put** sthg. **on** sthg.) to risk (something, esp. money) on; BET on **8** (**put** sthg. ↔ **on**) to pretend to have (an opinion, quality, etc.): *She's not really ill; she puts it on to get people's sympathy.* **9** (**put** sthg. ↔ **on**) to arrange for the performance of (a play, show, etc.); STAGE **10** (**put** sbdy. **on**) *infml, esp. AmE* to play a trick on; deceive: *"My dog can sing." "No, you're putting me on!"* —see also PUT-ON

put sbdy. **onto** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to give information about (someone or something good): *I can't help you myself, but I can put you onto a good lawyer.*

put out *phr v* **1** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **out**) to cause to stop burning: *It took them six hours to put the fire out.* | *She put out the light.* **2** [T] (**put** sbdy. **out**) **a** to upset or annoy: *She was so put out by his rudeness that she didn't know what to say.* **b** to cause inconvenience to: *Will it put you out if I bring another guest?* | *She never* **puts herself out** (=takes trouble) *to help people.* **3** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **out**) to produce, broadcast, or print; ISSUE: *The government has put out a statement denying these rumours.* **4** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **out**) to put (part of the body) out of place; DISLOCATE: *I can't play tennis today, I've put my shoulder out.* **5** [I (**to**)] to begin sailing; move away from the shore or coast: *We put out to sea at high tide.* **6** [T] (**put** sbdy. **out**) (esp. of a doctor, etc.) to make (someone) unconscious **7** [I (**for**)] *AmE sl* (of a woman) to be willing to have sex with someone **8** [T] (**put** sbdy. **out**) (in BASEBALL and CRICKET) to prevent (a player) from scoring (SCORE[2]) by removing him/her from play

put sthg. ↔ **over** *phr v* [T] to PUT **across**: *He can't put his ideas over clearly enough.*

put sthg. **over on** sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to deceive into believing or accepting (something worthless): *He tried to* **put one over on** *me* (=cheat me) *by selling me a car that didn't work.*

put through *phr v* [T] **1** (**put** sbdy./sthg. **through**) **a** to connect (a telephone caller) by telephone: *If she's not in, can you put me through to her secretary?* **b** to make (a telephone call): *I have to put through a call to our Madrid office.* **2** (**put** sthg. ↔ **through**) to complete (a piece of work or business) successfully: *Production will start up again when these changes have been put through.* **3 put someone through it/through the mill** *infml* to give someone a severe test of courage or ability

put sbdy./sthg. **to** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to ask (a question) of or make (an offer) to: *I'd like to put a question to the speaker.* **2** to test (something or someone) by (the stated means): *Let's put the matter to a vote|to a full discussion.* **3 put it to someone (that)** to suggest; invite someone to consider (that): *I put it to you that you haven't told us the full facts.* —see also **be hard put (to it) to** (HARD[2] (5))

put sbdy./sthg. ↔ **together** *phr v* [T] **1** to form by combining parts or members: *to put a team together* | *to put together a proposal* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to combine: *His share was more than all the others' put together.*

put up *phr v* **1** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **up**) to build or raise into position: *Have you put up the tent?* | *They're putting up a new office block.* **2** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **up**) to fix (esp. a notice) in a public place where people can see it: *She put up the exam results.* —opposite **take down** **3** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **up**) to increase in amount: *They've put the price up.* **4 a** [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to provide food and lodging for: *I'm afraid I can't put you up; you'll have to go to a hotel.* **b** [I+*adv*|*prep*] *esp. BrE* to get food and lodging; stay: *We'll put up at a hotel|with friends for the night.* **5** [T] (**put up** sthg.) to show, or give in a fight or competition: *They put up a lot of resistance.* | *What a coward; he didn't put up much of a fight!* **6** [T] (**put** sthg. **up**) to offer for sale: *She's putting her house up (for sale).* **7** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **up**) to supply or lend (money needed): *The plans for the new sports centre are all prepared, but someone will have to put up £50,000.* **8** [T] (**put** sbdy. ↔ **up**) to suggest as being a suitable person for a job, etc.: *Will you put Tom up for the cricket club?* (=suggest him as a member) **9** [T] (**put** sthg. ↔ **up**) *tech* to make (a hunted animal or bird) leave a hiding place —see also **put someone's back up** (BACK[1])

put upon sbdy. *phr v* [T] *esp. BrE* to be a cause of inconvenience to: *You're sure I won't be putting upon you if I stay to dinner?* —see also PUT-UPON

put sbdy. **up to** sthg. *phr v* [T] to give the idea of (doing esp. something bad): *It's not like David to cause trouble: someone must have put him up to it.*

put up with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *pass. rare*] *infml* to suffer (something annoying or unpleasant) without complaining: *I can't put up with your rudeness any more; leave the room.* | *That woman has a lot to put up with.* (=has many troubles)

put[2] *n tech* the right to sell a certain quantity of something (e.g. SHARES[1] (2)) at a fixed price within a given time — compare call[2] ( )

pu·ta·tive /ˈpjuːtətɪv/ *adj* [A] *fml* generally accepted or supposed to be or to become: *the putative father of her child*

put-down /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* words, esp. as an answer, that make someone feel unimportant or hurt; SNUB —see also PUT **down** (2)

put-off /ˈ· ·/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a pretended reason for not doing something; excuse —see also PUT **off**

put-on /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE infml* something not intended seriously or sincerely —see also PUT **on**

put op·tion /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the right to sell a ASSET at an agreed price by a particular date

pu·tre·fac·tion /ˌpjuːtrɨˈfækʃən/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* **1** the process of becoming putrid **2** putrid matter

pu·tre·fy /ˈpjuːtrɨfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] to decay; (cause to) become putrid

pu·tres·cent /pjuːˈtresənt/ *adj fml or tech* beginning to decay and smell bad: *putrescent fish* —**cence** *n* [U]

pu·trid /ˈpjuːtrɨd/ *adj* **1** (esp. of an animal or plant substance) very decayed and bad-smelling **2** *infml* worthless; very much disliked: *That play last night was really putrid!*

putsch /pʊtʃ/ *n* a sudden secretly planned attempt to remove a government by force

putt /pʌt/ *v* [I;T] (in the game of GOLF or PUTTING) to strike (the ball) gently along the ground towards or into the hole —**putt** *n*

put·ter[1] /ˈpʊtəʳ/ *n* [(**of**)] a person who puts something

putt·er[2] /ˈpʌtəʳ/ *n* (in the game of GOLF) **1** a GOLF CLUB used in putting (PUTT) the ball —see picture at GOLF **2** a person who PUTTS: *an expert putter*

put·ter[3] /ˈpʌtəʳ/ *n, v AmE for* POTTER[2]

put·ting /ˈpʌtɪŋ/ *n* [U] a simple game of GOLF played on a PUTTING GREEN (2) in public parks and seaside towns. Putting is popular with British people and is played esp. on holiday.

putting green /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* **1** one of the smooth grassy areas on a GOLF course containing the hole where the ball must be played **2** a smooth grassy area in a public park etc. with a number of holes where the game of putting is played

Putt·nam /ˈpʌtnəm/, **David** (1941–) an English film producer known esp. for the films *Chariots of Fire* and *The Killing Fields*

put·ty /ˈpʌti/ *n* [U] a soft pale oily substance, used esp. in fixing glass to window frames: *He was* **like putty in her hands**. (=very easily influenced by her)

put-up job /ˈ· · ˌ·/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml* something dishonestly arranged in advance

put-up·on /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *adj* [F] (of a person) used for someone else's advantage: *The way his neighbour always borrows things from him makes him feel put-upon.* —see also PUT **upon**

puz·zle[1] /ˈpʌzəl/ *v* **1** [T *often pass.*] to make (someone) feel helpless and uncertain in the effort to explain or understand something: *Her illness has puzzled all the doctors.* | *What puzzles me is why they didn't take her advice.* | *a puzzling situation* | *You look puzzled.* **2** [I+*prep*, esp. **about, over, as to**] to make a great effort of the mind in order to find the answer to a question: *I've been puzzling over all the figures, trying to find what happened to the missing money.*

puzzle sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to find the answer to (a problem) by thinking hard: *I'm trying to puzzle out the meaning of his words.* [+*wh-*] *We finally puzzled out how to open the box.*

puzzle[2] *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a game, toy, or apparatus in which parts must be fitted together correctly, intended to amuse or exercise the mind: *a crossword puzzle* | *a book of puzzles* —see also JIGSAW **2** [*usu. sing.*] something that one cannot understand or explain: *We can't find what happened to that money — it's a bit of a puzzle.*

puz·zle·ment /ˈpʌzəlmənt/ *n* [U] the state of being puzzled: *He gazed at the strange writing in puzzlement.*

puz·zler /ˈpʌzləʳ/ *n infml* a person or thing that puzzles one: *That last question was a real puzzler.*

PVC /ˌpiː viː ˈsiː◂/ *n* [U] a type of plastic: *This raincoat is (made of) PVC.*

pw *written abbrev. for*: per week: *The jobholder may earn up to £200 pw.*

P.W. /ˌpiː ˈdʌbəljuː◂/ *abbrev. for*: policewoman

PWA /ˌpiː dʌbəljuː ˈeɪ/ *abbrev. for*: person with AIDS

PWR /ˌpiː dʌbəljuː ˈɑːʳ/ *abbrev. for*: pressurized water reactor; a type of NUCLEAR REACTOR

PX /ˌpiː ˈeks/ also **post exchange** *fml*— *n* **PXs** /ˌpiː ˈeksɨz/ *tdmk* a shop at a US military base —compare NAAFI

Pyg·ma·li·on /pɪgˈmeɪliən/ a famous play by George Bernard Shaw in which a COCKNEY woman, Eliza Doolittle, is taught to speak and behave in an UPPER-CLASS way by Professor Higgins. *Pygmalion* was made into a popular MUSICAL called *My Fair Lady*

pyg·my, pigmy /ˈpɪgmi/ *n* **1** (*usu. cap.*) a member of a race of very small people in Africa **2** a very small person or animal: *a pygmy elephant* **3** *derog* a person with very little skill or importance: *a political pygmy*

py·ja·mas /pəˈdʒɑːməz‖-ˈdʒæ-, -ˈdʒɑː-/ also **jammies** *BrE* ‖ **pajamas, Pj's** *AmE n* [P] **1** a soft loose-fitting pair of trousers and top worn in bed, esp. by men **2** loose trousers tied round the waist, worn by Muslim men and women —see PAIR (USAGE) —**pyjama** *adj* [A] : *Where are my pyjama trousers?*

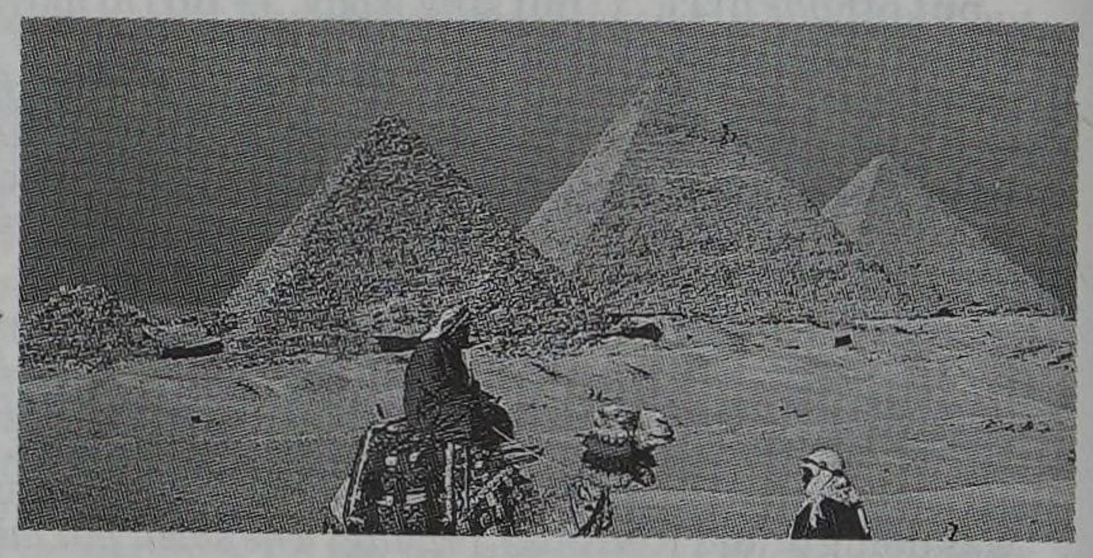
py·lon /ˈpaɪlən‖-lɑːn, -lən/ *n* **1** a tall structure of steel bars used for supporting wires that carry electricity over land **2** a high tower or post used as a guiding mark for aircraft **3** *tech* a gateway to an ancient Egyptian temple

PYO *written abbrev. for*: Pick Your Own; (a sign put up at farms where people can pick their own fruit and vegetables. Food picked in this way is usu. cheaper than in the shops.)

py·or·rhoe·a, -rhea /ˌpaɪəˈriːə/ *n* [U] a disease of the flesh round the teeth, which may cause them to become loose

pyr·a·mid /ˈpɪrəmɪd/ *n* **1** (in GEOMETRY) a solid figure with a flat usu. square base and straight flat three-angled sides that slope upwards to meet at a point **2** (*often cap.*) a very large stone structure in this shape, used in ancient Egypt as the burial place of an important person, e.g. a king **3** a building or pile of objects in this shape: *A pyramid of stones marked the spot.*

the Pyramids



Pyr·a·mids /ˈpɪrəmɪdz/ [*the*] the pyramids in Egypt where the kings of Egypt were buried. Many stories are told of the opening of the pyramids, often by British ARCHAEOLOGISTS, who found many important and valuable things inside.

pyramid sell·ing /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *tech* an unfair system by which a person buys a right to sell a company's goods and then sells part of that right to other people

Pyr·a·mus and This·be /ˌpɪrəməs ənd ˈθɪzbi/ in CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY, a pair of lovers who killed themselves because each thought the other person was dead

pyre /paɪəʳ/ *n* a high mass of wood for the ceremonial burning of a dead body: *a funeral pyre*

Pyr·e·nees /ˌpɪrəˈniːz‖ˈpɪrəniːz/ [*the* +P] a mountain range between France and Spain

Py·rex /ˈpaɪəreks/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a kind of glass that does not crack in great heat, and so is used in making cooking containers: *a Pyrex bowl*

py·ri·tes /paɪˈraɪtiːz‖pə-/ *n* [U] (*usu. in comb.*) a natural compound of SULPHUR with a metal, esp. iron (**iron pyrites**), found in the earth and having a shiny yellow appearance, like gold

py·ro·ma·ni·a /ˌpaɪərəʊˈmeɪniə‖-rə-/ *n* [U] *tech* an illness of the mind causing an uncontrollable desire to start fires

py·ro·ma·ni·ac /ˌpaɪərəʊˈmeɪniæk‖-rə-/ *n tech* a person suffering from pyromania

py·ro·tech·nics /ˌpaɪərəʊˈteknɪks‖-rə-/ *n* **1** [U] *tech* the making of bright explosive lights, as used for amusement (FIREWORKS) or as signals for ships, aircraft, etc. **2** [P] *fml or tech* a public show of FIREWORKS **3** [P] a splendid show of skill in words, music, etc.: *the pianist's pyrotechnics in the scherzo* —**pyrotechnic** *adj*

Pyr·rhic vic·to·ry /ˌpɪrɪk ˈvɪktəri/ *n* a victory in which the winner suffers such great losses that the victory is worthless (from Pyrrhus, whose army suffered heavy losses in defeating the Romans)

Py·thag·o·ras /paɪˈθægərəs‖pə-/ (582?–?507 BC) a Greek thinker and MATHEMATICIAN, known for **Pythagoras's Theorem**, a way of finding the length of the third side of a TRIANGLE with one angle of 90°

py·thon /ˈpaɪθən‖-θɑːn, -θən/ *n* **pythons** *or* **python** a large non-poisonous tropical snake that kills animals for food by winding round them and crushing them

Py·thon·esque /ˌpaɪθənˈesk◂/ *adj* humorous in a silly, strange, and SURREAL way (from the television COMEDY programme *Monty Python's Flying Circus*) –see also MONTY PYTHON

pyx /pɪks/ *n tech* a container in which the holy bread used for the Christian service of COMMUNION is kept, esp. a small round metal dish used for carrying Communion to the sick

Q

Q /kju:/ **Q's, q's** *or* **Qs, qs** the 17th letter of the English alphabet

Qad·daf·i, Qadhafi /gə'dæfi ‖ -'dɑ:-/ see GADDAFI

Qa·tar /kʌ'tɑ:r‖'kɑ:tər/ a country in E Arabia, whose economic life is based on oil; capital Doha; population 1,220,000 (1989)

QC /ˌkju: 'si:/ *n* Queen's Counsel; (the title given, while a queen is ruling, to) a British BARRISTER (=lawyer) of high rank: *Sir John is a leading QC.* | *Sir John Smithers, QC* –compare KC

QED /ˌkju: i: 'di:/ *abbrev. for:* (*Lat*) quod erat demonstrandum; there is the proof of my argument

QE2 /ˌkwju: i: 'tu:/ [*the*] a large passenger ship owned by the Cunard company operating between Southampton and New York, and also taking people on sea journeys all over the world, for pleasure. The QE2 is considered to be a very comfortable and expensive way of travelling.

QPR /ˌkju: pi: 'ɑ:r/ *abbrev. for* QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS

qr *written abbrev. for:* quarter

qt *written abbrev. for:* QUART

q.t. /ˌkju: 'ti:/ *n* **on the q.t.** *infml* secret; secretly: *Don't say I told you; it's supposed to be on the q.t.*

Q-tip /'kju: tɪp/ *n AmE tdmk* COTTON BUD

qu *written abbrev. for:* question

qua /kweɪ, kwɑ:‖kwɑ:/ *prep fml* when thought of particularly in the character of; by itself: *Money, qua money, cannot provide happiness.*

Quaa·lude /'kweɪlu:d/ also **lude**– *n tdmk* a drug used to help people sleep

quack[1] /kwæk/ *v* [I] to make the sound that ducks make – **quack** *n*

quack[2] *n infml* **1** *derog* a person dishonestly claiming to have medical knowledge or skills: *a quack doctor* – compare CHARLATAN **2** *esp. BrE* a doctor

quack·er·y /'kwækəri/ *n* [U] *derog* the behaviour or methods of a QUACK[2] (1)

quad /kwɒd‖kwɑ:d/ *n infml* **1** a square open place with buildings round it, esp. in a school or college **2** a QUADRUPLET

Quad·ra·ges·i·ma /ˌkwɒdrə'dʒesɨmə‖ˌkwɑ:-/ *n* [U] the first Sunday in LENT (from Latin quadraginta, meaning 40, since Quadragesima is about 40 days before Easter)

quad·ran·gle /'kwɒdræŋgəl‖'kwɑ:-/ *n* **1** *tech* a QUADRILATERAL, such as a square **2** *fml for* QUAD (1)

quad·ran·gu·lar /kwɒ'dræŋgjʊlər‖kwɑ:-/ *adj* having the shape of a quadrangle

quad·rant /'kwɒdrənt‖'kwɑ:-/ *n* **1** a quarter of a circle **2** an instrument for measuring angles, when sailing or when looking at the stars

quad·ra·phon·ic /ˌkwɒdrə'fɒnɪk◂‖ˌkwɑ:drə'fɑ:-/ *adj* using a system of sound recording, broadcasting, or receiving in which sound comes from four different places – compare MONO[1], STEREO[2]

quad·rat·ic e·qua·tion /kwɒˌdrætɪk ɪ'kweɪʒən‖kwɑ:-/ *n tech* an EQUATION, such as $ax^2+bx+c=y$, which includes numbers or quantities multiplied by themselves once

quad·ri·lat·er·al /ˌkwɒdrɨ'lætərəl◂‖ˌkwɑ:-/ *n, adj* (a flat figure) with four straight sides

qua·drille /kwə'drɪl‖kwɑ:-/ *n* a dance, popular esp. formerly, in which the dancers form a square

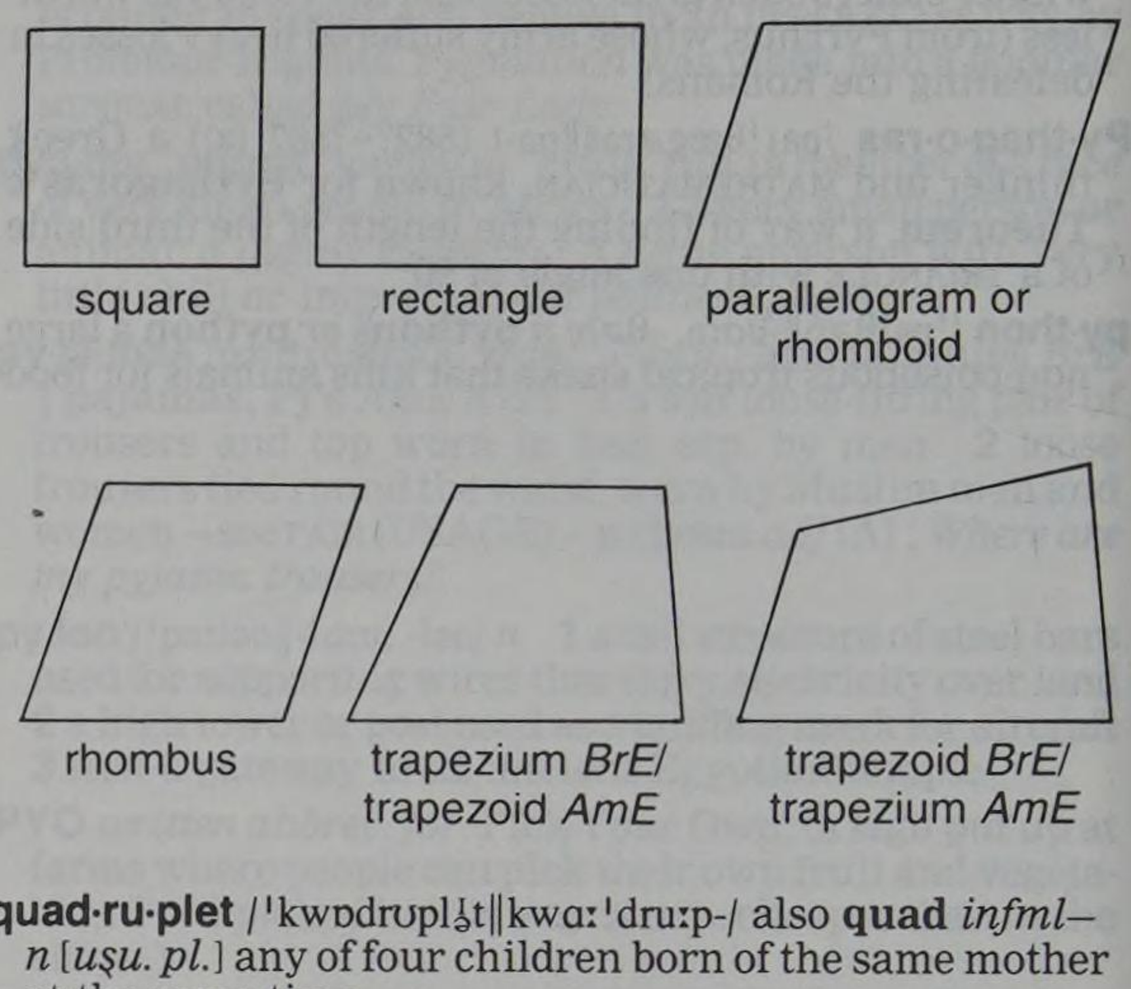
qua·dril·lion /kwɒ'drɪljən‖kwɑ:-/ *n, determiner, pron* **quadrillion** *or* **quadrillions** **1** *BrE* the number one followed by 24 zeros; 10^{24} **2** *AmE* the number one followed by 15 zeros; 10^{15}

quad·ru·ped /'kwɒdrʊped‖'kwɑ:-/ *n tech* a four-legged animal –compare BIPED

quad·ru·ple[1] /'kwɒdrʊpəl, kwɒ'dru:-‖kwɑ:'dru:-/ *v* **1** [T] to multiply (a number or amount) by four **2** [I] to become four times as great: *Profits have quadrupled.*

quadruple[2] *adj, predeterminer fml* four times as big or many: *quadruple the amount of profit* –**-ply** *adv*

quadrilaterals



quad·ru·plet /'kwɒdrʊplɨt‖kwɑ:'dru:p-/ also **quad** *infml*– *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of four children born of the same mother at the same time

quaff /kwɒf, kwɑ:f‖kwɑ:f, kwæf/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* to drink deeply

quag·mire /'kwægmaɪəʳ, 'kwɒg-‖'kwæg-/ *n* an area of soft wet ground: *After the rain, the football pitch is a real quagmire.* | (fig.) *They'd allowed themselves to get bogged down in a quagmire of unnecessary details.*

quail[1] /kweɪl/ *n* **quail** *or* **quails** [C;U] (the meat of) a small bird like the PARTRIDGE, expensive, and eaten esp. by rich people. **Quail's eggs** are also considered a LUXURY food.

quail[2] *v* [I (**with, at**)] *lit or fml* to be afraid; tremble: *I quailed (with fear) at the thought of telling her the bad news.*

quaint /kweɪnt/ *adj* unusual and attractive, esp. in an old-fashioned way: *a quaint old village custom* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

quake[1] /kweɪk/ *v* [I (**with, at**)] to shake or tremble, esp. in a violent way and usu. because of fear: *He was quaking in his boots at the thought.*

quake[2] *n infml for* EARTHQUAKE

Qua·ker /'kweɪkəʳ/ *n,adj* (a member) of a Christian religious group called the Society of Friends. Quakers believe in "inner light", have no ministers or organized service, and often spend their religious services (called **Meetings**) in silence. Quakers are known for their opposition to violence and war, and are active in helping other people and in education. –see also FRIEND

qual·i·fi·ca·tion /ˌkwɒlɨfɨ'keɪʃən‖ˌkwɑ:-/ *n* **1** [C *often pl.*] a proof that one has passed an examination and gained a certain level of knowledge or skill: *to gain a medical qualification* | *academic qualifications* **2** [C (**for**)] an ability, quality, or record of experience that makes a person suitable for a particular job or position: *Previous experience is not an essential qualification for this job.* [+*to-v*] *She has all the right qualifications to be a good manager.* **3** [C] something that limits the force of a statement: *I agree, with certain qualifications.* [+*that*] *We support the plan, with the qualification that it should be done more cheaply.* **4** [U] the act of qualifying

qual·i·fied /'kwɒlɨfaɪd‖'kwɑ:-/ *adj* **1** having suitable knowledge or qualifications, esp. for a job: *a highly qualified engineer* [+*to-v*] *He's not qualified to teach young children.* **2** limited; not complete: *qualified agreement*

qual·i·fi·er /'kwɒlɨfaɪəʳ‖'kwɑ:-/ *n* **1** someone who has qualified or had to qualify, esp. by passing a test, winning a match, etc. **2** *tech* (in grammar) a word or phrase, esp. an adjective or adverb, which limits the meaning of another word or phrase

qual·i·fy /'kwɒlɨfaɪ‖'kwɑ:-/ *v* **1** [I;T (**as, for**)] to (cause to) reach a necessary standard, e.g. of knowledge, ability, or performance, or get a QUALIFICATION: *She qualified as a doctor this year.* | *Will our team qualify for the second round of the competition?* | *Her teaching experience qualifies her admirably for the job.* | *People on low incomes may qualify for a special heating allowance.* [+*obj+to-v*] *Spending a week in Russia doesn't qualify you to talk about it as an expert.* | *a qualifying match* (=the team/person that wins it will be allowed to go on to the next stage of the

competition) **2** [T] to limit the force or meaning of (something stated); MODIFY: *I'd like to qualify my last statement—it was too strong.* | *(tech) Adjectives qualify nouns.*

qual·i·ta·tive /ˈkwɒlɪtətɪv‖ˈkwɑːlɪteɪ-/ *adj* of or about quality: *a qualitative judgment* —compare QUANTITATIVE — **~ly** *adv*

qual·i·ty /ˈkwɒlɪti‖ˈkwɑː-/ *n* **1** [U] **a** the degree to which something is excellent; standard of goodness: *material of low|poor quality* | *The quality of the service here has improved a lot.* | *high-quality goods* **b** a high standard: *It is difficult to recruit teachers of quality.* | *an actor of real quality* (=a very good actor) **2** [C] something typical of a person or thing; CHARACTERISTIC: *Sympathy is his best quality.* | *She shows qualities of leadership.* | *This music has a rather sinister quality.*

quality as·sur·ance /ˈ··· ·ˌ··/ *n* [U] management of the quality of production according to a system

quality con·trol /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ *n* [U] the practice of checking examples of goods produced to make sure that the quality of all the goods is what it should be

quality of life /ˌ··· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] the level of health, comfort, and pleasure in a (person's) life: *A government which says it is concerned about the quality of life cannot then ignore the weakest members of our society.* | *Our quality of life has already been affected by this latest nuclear disaster.*

quality pa·per /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* a British daily or Sunday newspaper aimed at educated readers. Quality papers are sometimes called the serious papers. They contain detailed news articles, FEATURES, and REVIEWS written in a serious style. —compare POPULAR PRESS, TABLOID and see also extra information on page 0000

quality time /ˈ··· ˌ·/ *n* [U] time spent with e.g. one's children when one is relaxed and has got nothing else to do. This is supposed to be good for parent and child, esp. because the parent is at work for most of the day: *She took comfort in the idea that her uninterrupted hour with the children at bedtime was quality time.*

qualm /kwɑːm‖kwɑːm, kwɑːlm/ *n* [(**about**) *often pl.*] an uncomfortable feeling of uncertainty, esp. as to whether something is right: *He had no qualms about cheating the tax inspector.*

quan·da·ry /ˈkwɒndəri‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *n* [(**about, over**)] a feeling of not knowing what to do: *I was* **in a quandary** *about whether to go.*

quan·go /ˈkwæŋgəʊ/ *n* **-gos** *usu. derog* (in Britain) an independent body, such as the Race Relations Board, set up by the government but having its own separate legal powers in a particular area of activity (from quasi-autonomous non-governmental organization)

Quant /kwɒnt‖kwɑːnt/, **Mary** (1934–) an English fashion DESIGNER, popular in the 1960s, who is best known for her GEOMETRIC clothes and the MINI SKIRT

quan·ta /ˈkwɒntə‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *pl. of* QUANTUM

quan·ti·fi·er /ˈkwɒntɪfaɪəʳ‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *n tech* (in grammar) a word or phrase that is used with a noun to show quantity, such as **much, few,** and **a lot of**

quan·ti·fy /ˈkwɒntɪfaɪ‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *v* [T] *fml* to measure (an amount or quantity): *It is difficult to quantify the value of space exploration.* —**fiable** *adj* —**fication** /ˌkwɒntɪfɪˈkeɪʃən‖ˌkwɑːn-/ *n* [U]

quan·ti·ta·tive /ˈkwɒntɪtətɪv‖ˈkwɑːntɪteɪ-/ *adj* of or about quantity: *a quantitative difference* —compare QUALITATIVE — **~ly** *adv*

quan·ti·ty /ˈkwɒntɪti‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of being measurable; amount: *It was a bad year for new films, in terms of both quantity and quality.* (=there were not many, and they were not very good) **2** [C (**of**)] also **quantities** *pl.*— **a** an amount or number: *A large|vast quantity of beer was sold.* | *expensive cars that are manufactured in small quantities* **b** *old-fash* a large amount or number: *Quantities of food were spread out on the table.* —see also UNKNOWN QUANTITY

quantity sur·vey·or /ˈ··· ·ˌ··/ *n* a person who calculates the amount of materials needed for a future building, and what they will cost

Quan·tocks /ˈkwɒntəks‖ˈkwɑːntɑːks/ also **Quantock Hills** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— [*the*+P] a range of hills in Somerset, SW England

quan·tum /ˈkwɒntəm‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *n* **-ta** /tə/ *tech* (esp. in PHYSICS) a fixed amount which varies from the next possible smaller or larger amount by a specific degree

quantum leap /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a very large and important advance or improvement: *The concept of sixth generation computers represents a quantum leap in communications systems.*

quantum me·chan·ics /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ [P+*sing./pl.v*] the study of ELEMENTARY PARTICLES, which behave according to the rules of quantum theory but unlike larger objects which obey the laws of ordinary PHYSICS

quantum the·o·ry /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [(*the*) U] a 20th century development in PHYSICS which says that ENERGY and mass, esp. at the atomic level and smaller, show properties in quantum divisions only

quar·an·tine[1] /ˈkwɒrəntiːn‖ˈkwɔː-/ *n* [S;(**in**) U] a period of time when a person or animal that may be carrying disease is kept separate from others so that the disease cannot spread: *Animals entering Britain from abroad are put in quarantine for six months.*

quarantine[2] *v* [T *often pass.*] to put in quarantine

quark /kwɑːk, kwɔːk‖kwɔːrk, kwɑːrk/ *n* **1** *tech* an extremely small piece of matter that forms the substances of which atoms are made **2** *BrE* a low fat cream cheese

quar·rel[1] /ˈkwɒrəl‖ˈkwɔː-, ˈkwɑː-/ *n* [(**with**)] **1** an angry argument, often about something not very important: *I got involved in a quarrel about the price.* | *He seems to enjoy* **picking** (=causing) **quarrels** *with people.* **2 have no quarrel with** to have no cause for or point of disagreement with: *I have no quarrel with what the minister says.*

quarrel[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I (**about, over, with**)] to have a quarrel: *They were quarrelling furiously (with each other) about whose turn it was to cook the dinner.*

▷ USAGE Compare **quarrel** and **argue**. Both words can mean "to have an unpleasant disagreement in which people feel angry": *Jack and Jill* **argued/quarrelled** *about who should get the money, and stopped speaking to each other.* However you can also **argue** with someone (=have a discussion in which there are differences of opinion) without feeling angry: *Jill and I often have a drink together and* **argue** *about modern art.*◁

quarrel with sthg. *phr v* [T] to disagree with or complain about: *I don't quarrel with what you say, but with how you say it.*

quar·rel·some /ˈkwɒrəlsəm‖ˈkwɔː-, ˈkwɑː-/ *adj derog* (of a person) likely to quarrel; often arguing — **~ness** *n* [U]

quar·ry[1] /ˈkwɒri‖ˈkwɔː-, ˈkwɑː-/ *n* a place from which stone, sand, etc., are dug out —compare MINE[3] (1)

quarry[2] *v* [T (**from**)] to dig out (stone, sand, etc.) from a quarry

quarry[3] *n* [S] the person or animal that one is hunting or chasing: *The policeman followed his quarry into the park to arrest him.*

quart /kwɔːt‖kwɔːrt/ *n* **1** a unit of liquid and dry measure: *a quart of milk* —see TABLE 2 **2 put a quart into a pint pot** *BrE infml* [*usu. in negatives*] to do something impossible

quar·ter[1] /ˈkwɔːtəʳ‖ˈkwɔːr-/ *n* **1** [C] a fourth part of a whole; $^1/_4$: *a quarter of a mile* | *a mile and a quarter* | *A quarter* (=$^1/_4$ of a POUND) *of sweets, please.* | *a quarter of a million* (=250,000) | *The currency has been reduced to a quarter of its former value.* **2** [C] 15 minutes before or after the hour: *It's a quarter past ten|(AmE) after ten.* (=10.15) | *a quarter to ten|(AmE) of ten* (=9.45) | *in three quarters of an hour* (=45 minutes) | *This clock strikes the quarters.* **3** [C] a period of three months, used esp. for making payments: *I pay my rent by the quarter.* | *The company's profits rose by 11 per cent in the first quarter.* —see also QUARTERLY[1] **4** [C] (in the US and Canada) a coin worth 25 cents (=$^1/_4$ of a dollar) **5** *AmE* a period of 10 to 12 weeks into which the teaching year is divided in some American colleges and universities: *What classes are you taking fall quarter?* **6** any of the four equal periods of time into which some sports matches are divided: *At the end of the first quarter, the Lakers lead 26-22.* **7** [C *often pl.*] a place or person from which something comes or may be expected: *Help is arriving from all quarters.* | *The best advice came from a most unexpected quarter.* | *This decision is seen in some quarters* (=by some people) *as a change of policy.* **8** [C] a part of a town lived in or worked in by the stated people: *the student quarter* | *the Arab quarter* **9** [C] a unit of weight

—see TABLE 2 **10** [U *usu. in negatives*] *fml* the giving of life to a defeated enemy; MERCY: *They are ferocious fighters, who neither give nor expect any quarter.* **11** [C] (*often in comb.*) a piece of meat from a large animal, including a leg: *a quarter of beef* **12** [C] the period twice a month when the moon shows a quarter of its surface: *In the first week the moon is in its first quarter, in the third it is in its last quarter.* —see also QUARTERS, **at close quarters** (CLOSE²)

quarter² *v* [T] **1** to cut or divide into four parts **2** [(**on**)] to provide lodgings for (esp. soldiers): *He quartered his men on families in the town.*

quar·ter·back /ˈkwɔːtəbæk‖ˈkwɔːrtər-/ *n* (in FOOTBALL²) the player who decides how the team will play and who passes the ball to the other players

quarter day /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a day which officially begins a three-month period of the year, and on which payments are made

quar·ter·deck /ˈkwɔːtədek‖ˈkwɔːrtər-/ *n* [*the*] *tech* part of the highest level of a ship, used only by officers

quar·ter·fi·nal /ˌkwɔːtəˈfaɪnl‖ˌkwɔːrtər-/ *n* any of four matches in a competition, whose winners will play in the two SEMIFINALS

quarter horse /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* (in the US) a strong horse bred (BREED¹) to run short races, usu. races of a quarter of a mile

quar·ter·ly¹ /ˈkwɔːtəli‖ˈkwɔːrtər-/ *adj, adv* (happening, appearing, etc.) four times a year: *quarterly payments | a quarterly newsletter*

quarterly² *n* a magazine appearing four times a year

quar·ter·mas·ter /ˈkwɔːtəˌmɑːstəʳ‖ˈkwɔːrtərˌmæ-/ *n* a military officer in charge of provisions

quarter note /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* CROTCHET —see picture at NOTATION

quar·ters /ˈkwɔːtəz‖ˈkwɔːrtərz/ *n* [P] lodgings: **Married quarters** *are houses where soldiers live with their families.*

quarter ses·sions /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **sessions**— *n* [P] a law court held every three months formerly in England

quar·ter·staff /ˈkwɔːtəstɑːf‖ˈkwɔːrtərstæf/ *n* **-staffs** *or* **-staves** /steɪvz/ a long wooden pole used as a weapon, esp. in former times

quar·tet , -tette /kwɔːˈtet‖kwɔːr-/ *n esp. BrE* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] four singers or musicians performing together: *A quartet is/are playing tonight.* **2** a piece of music for four performers —compare QUINTET, TRIO

quar·to /ˈkwɔːtəʊ‖ˈkwɔːr-/ *n* **-tos** *tech* the (size of) paper produced by folding a large sheet of paper twice so as to give four sheets or eight pages in all: *In most libraries, quarto books are kept separately because they are so big.* —compare FOLIO (2), OCTAVO

quartz /kwɔːts‖kwɔːrts/ *n* [U] a hard mineral substance, now used in making very exact watches and clocks

qua·sar /ˈkweɪzɑːʳ/ *n tech* a very bright very distant object like a star, whose exact nature is unknown —compare PULSAR

quash /kwɒʃ‖kwɑːʃ, kwɔːʃ/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to officially refuse to accept (something already decided): *The high court judge quashed the decision of the lower court.* **2** to bring to an end by force; CRUSH: *The army quashed the rebellion.*

quasi- see WORD FORMATION

Qua·si·mo·do /ˌkwɑːzɪˈməʊdəʊ/ a character in Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, an ugly HUNCHBACK whose job is to ring the bells of Notre Dame (a CATHEDRAL in Paris)

quat·er·cen·te·na·ry /ˌkwætəsenˈtiːnəri‖ˌkwɑːtərsenˈte-/ *n* the day or year exactly 400 years after a particular event: *1964 was the quatercentenary of Shakespeare's birth.*

quat·rain /ˈkwɒtreɪn‖ˈkwɑː-/ *n* a group of four lines which is a whole poem, or part of a poem

qua·ver¹ /ˈkweɪvəʳ/ *v* **1** [I] (of a voice or music) to shake; TREMBLE **2** [T] to say in a shaky voice —**~y** *adj* : *a quavery voice*

quaver² *n* **1** a shaking in the voice **2** *BrE* ‖ **eighth note** *AmE*— a musical note with a time value half as long as a CROTCHET —see picture at NOTATION

quay /kiː/ *n* a place where boats can stop to load and unload, usu. built of stone and usu. forming part of a HARBOUR

Quayle /kweɪl/, **John Dan·forth** /dʒɒn ˈdænfəθ‖dʒɑːn ˈdænfərθ/ **(Dan)** (1947–) VICE-PRESIDENT of the US since 1989 under President George Bush. Many Americans think that Quayle does not really have enough experience to be vice-president, and jokes are sometimes made about mistakes he has made.

quea·sy /ˈkwiːzi/ *adj infml* **1** feeling that one is going to VOMIT: *I felt a little queasy on the ship. | a queasy stomach* **2** [(**about, at**)] unwilling to do something; UNEASY —**-sily** *adv* —**-siness** *n* [U]

Que·bec /kwɪˈbek/ **1** a PROVINCE in E Canada. Quebec is an industrial and farming area, and the centre of French Canadian CULTURE and language. Quebec has sometimes considered whether it should separate from the rest of Canada and become a nation by itself. Some people in Canada see Quebec as a troublemaker for this reason and do not like some of the things the government has allowed Quebec to do in order to keep it as part of Canada, for example, making French the official language of business and education in Quebec. **2** capital city of Quebec province, the centre of French Canadian nationalism

Qué·bé·cois /ˌkeɪbeˈkwɑː◂/ *n* **Québécois** a person who lives in Quebec, Canada

queen¹ /kwiːn/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] (*sometimes cap.*) (the title of) **a** a female ruler of a country, usu. the daughter of a former ruler: *Queen Elizabeth the Second | She became queen in 1952.* **b** the wife of a king —see KINGDOM (USAGE) **2** [(**of**)] the leading female, often chosen in a competition: *a beauty queen* | (fig.) *London is the queen of British cities.* —see also MAY QUEEN **3** (*often in comb.*) the leading female insect of a group: *the queen ant/bee* **4 a** the most powerful piece in CHESS **b** [(**of**)] any of the four playing cards with a picture of a queen —see CARDS (USAGE), and see picture at CHESS **5** *derog sl* a male HOMOSEXUAL. This word is used by homosexuals among themselves, but they consider it offensive when it is said by other people.

queen² *v* [T] **1** (in CHESS) to change (a PAWN) into a queen **2 queen it** *BrE infml derog* (of a woman) to behave in an unpleasantly proud way

Queen¹ [*the*] Her Majesty the Queen; the official title of the queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Queen is the official head of state of Britain and of other countries in the COMMONWEALTH (1), but has little real political power. She has to give her official agreement (Royal Assent) to all new laws before they can actually become laws but in fact she does not have the right to refuse this agreement. —see also ELIZABETH II

Queen² a British popular music group, successful in the 1970s and 1980s, whose LEAD³ singer was Freddie Mercury

Queen Anne /ˌ· ˈ·/ *adj* **1** a style of furniture popular in the 18th century: *a Queen Anne chair | Queen Anne legs* (=legs on a table, chair, etc. that are curved) **2** a style of ARCHITECTURE known by its CLASSICAL (1) detail and red BRICKWORK (from Queen Anne of Britain (1665–1714))

queen con·sort /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **queens consort** (*often caps.*) (a special title sometimes given to) the wife of a ruling king —compare PRINCE CONSORT

Queen Elizabeth I see ELIZABETH I

Queen Elizabeth II¹ see ELIZABETH II —see colour picture on page 752

Queen Elizabeth II² see QE2

Queen E·liz·a·beth Hall /ˌ· ·ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] a concert hall in London, part of the South Bank Arts Centre, known as a place for performances of CLASSICAL music

Queen E·liz·a·beth Is·lands /ˌ· ·ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the* +P] a group of islands off the N coast of Canada

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother see QUEEN MOTHER

queen·ly /ˈkwiːnli/ *adj apprec* like or suitable for a queen: *her queenly dignity*

Queen Mab /kwiːn ˈmæb/ the queen of the fairies (FAIRY (1)) in various old stories

queen moth·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* the mother of a ruler

Queen Moth·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ also **Queen Mum** /ˌ· ˈ·/ *BrE infml*— [*the*] (1900–) **Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother**, mother of Elizabeth II and WIDOW of King George VI. She is popular with the British people and is seen as a caring

person who gives support and sympathy to ordinary people.

Queen of She·ba /ˌkwiːn əv ˈʃiːbə/ *n* a person who is very rich or who spends money as if they were very rich (from the Bible story of the wealth of the Queen of Sheba who visited Solomon)

Queen of the May /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* see MAY QUEEN

Queens /ˈkwiːnz/ one of the five BOROUGHS of New York City, on the W end of Long Island —see colour map on page 1376

Queen's Bench /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **Queen's Bench Di·vi·sion** /ˌ· ˈ· ·ˌ··/— *n* [*the*] (the name given, while a queen is ruling, to) a division of the High Court of Justice in England — compare KING'S BENCH

Queens·ber·ry rules /ˌkwiːnzbəri ˈruːlz‖-beri-/ *n* [*the*+P] the rules of fair fighting in BOXING (from the Marquess of Queensberry who made up the rules)

Queen's birth·day /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] either April 21, the Queen's actual birthday, or her Official Birthday, the second Saturday in June —see also OFFICIAL BIRTHDAY

Queen's Coun·sel /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* see QC

Queen's En·glish /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*+S] (the expression sometimes used, while a queen is ruling, to describe) good correct English as spoken in Britain —compare KING'S ENGLISH

queen's ev·i·dence /ˌ· ˈ···/ also **king's evidence** *BrE*‖**state's evidence** *AmE*— *n* (*often caps.*) **turn queen's evidence** *BrE* (of a criminal) to give information in a court of law against other criminals, esp. in order to get less punishment oneself

queen-size /ˈ· ·/ *adj AmE* (of a bed, sheets, etc.) being larger than standard size: *a queen-size mattress*

Queens·land /ˈkwiːnzlənd/ a state in NE Australia, known for its sugar EXPORT and mines and also the Great Barrier Reef, a popular tourist attraction

Queens-Mid·town Tun·nel /ˌ· ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] a traffic tunnel under the East River that connects Manhattan and Queens —see colour map on page 1376

Queen's Own High·land·ers /ˌ· · ˈ···/ [*the* +P] a Scottish REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army

Queen's Park Ran·gers /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ also **QPR** *infml*— a London football team

Queen's speech /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] the speech made by the Queen at the opening of the British Parliament each year. It is prepared by the government and gives details of the government's programme for the next year, and their political ideas.

queer[1] /kwɪəʳ/ *adj rather old-fash* **1** strange or difficult to explain: *What a queer story!* | *It's queer that she never answered.* **2** *infml* slightly unwell: *I'm feeling a little queer; I think I'll go home.* **3** *infml derog for* HOMOSEXUAL **4** *infml* slightly mad: *She's a bit* **queer in the head**. **5 in ˈqueer street** *BrE sl* in debt; in trouble over money matters —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

queer[2] *n old-fash infml derog* a male HOMOSEXUAL

queer[3] *v* **queer someone's pitch** to spoil someone's plans or chances

queer bash·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the act of attacking people because they are HOMOSEXUALS

quell /kwel/ *v* [T] to bring to an end, esp. by force: *"Army Quells Rebellion"* (in newspaper) | *The government's reassurances have done nothing to quell the doubts of the public.*

quench /kwentʃ/ *v* [T (**with**)] **1** to satisfy (one's thirst) by drinking: *She quenched her thirst with a glass of cold milk.* | *a thirst-quenching drink* **2** *lit* to put out (flames, a light, etc.)

quer·u·lous /ˈkwerʊ̯ləs/ *adj fml derog* habitually complaining, esp. in a weak self-pitying way: *querulous voices|old ladies* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

que·ry[1] /ˈkwɪəri/ *n* a question or doubt: *I'd like to raise a few queries here.*

query[2] *v* [T] to express doubt or uncertainty about: *I would like to query the speaker's last point.* [+*wh*-] *He queried whether the law allowed this sort of procedure.*

quest /kwest/ *n* [(**of, for**)] *esp. lit* a long search; an attempt to find something: *the continuing quest for a cure for the disease* | *They travelled* **in quest of** *gold.* —**quest** *v* [I (**for, after**)]

ques·tion[1] /ˈkwestʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a sentence or phrase which asks for information: *I asked you a question and you didn't answer.* | *The question is: how was he killed?* | *In response to your last question, no, I do not intend to resign.*| *Answer three out of the five questions on the exam paper* **2** [C] a matter that needs to be settled or dealt with; ISSUE: *The government is examining the energy question closely.* | *It's a question of finding enough time.* | *At the end of the meeting, a number of important questions were still unresolved.* **3** [C;U (**about**)] (a) doubt or uncertainty: *There's no question about it: she did it.* | *This incident raises further questions about the effectiveness of airport security.* | *His honesty is* **beyond question** (=cannot be doubted)/*is* **open to question.** (=may be doubted) [+*that*] *There's no question about her sincerity|that she is sincere.* (=she is certainly sincere) **4 in question** under consideration; being talked about: *That is not the point in question.* **5 out of the question** impossible: *You can't go to the wedding in that old shirt; it's quite out of the question.* **6 pop the question** *infml* to ask someone to marry you: *It took him months to pluck up enough courage to pop the question.* **7 there's no question of** there's no possibility of: *There's no question of our dismissing you.* (=we certainly will not) —see also LEADING QUESTION, VEXED QUESTION, **beg the question** (BEG), **call into question** (CALL[1])

question[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**about**)] to ask (someone) questions: *Two men are being questioned by the police in connection with the robbery.* **2** to have or express doubts about: *I would never question his honesty|his ability.* [+*wh*-] *I question whether this policy will be effective.* —see ASK (USAGE) —~**er** *n*

ques·tion·a·ble /ˈkwestʃənəbəl/ *adj* **1** not certain: *It's questionable whether she told him.* **2** perhaps not true, right, or honest: *highly questionable behaviour in money matters* —**-bly** *adv*

ques·tion·ing /ˈkwestʃənɪŋ/ *adj* appearing to have doubts or want information: *She gave him a questioning look.* —~**ly** *adv*

question mark /ˈ·· ·/ *n* the mark (?) used at the end of a sentence that asks a question: (fig.) *There's a big question mark over the future of this football club.* (=it may soon no longer exist) —see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK

question mas·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **quizmaster** *AmE*— *n* the person who asks the questions in a QUIZ game

ques·tion·naire /ˌkwestʃəˈneəʳ, ˌkes-/ *n* a written set of questions which a large number of people are asked to answer in order to provide information, e.g. for a government or company

question tag /ˈ·· ·/ *n* TAG[1] (4)

question time /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] the period of time in a parliament when ministers answer members' questions. Question time is shown on television and can be interesting to watch because of the loud, sometimes angry discussions which take place. —see also PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION TIME

Quet·zal·co·at·l /ˌketsəl-kəʊˈætl/ a NATIVE AMERICAN nature god shown in pictures as a snake with feathers on its head

queue[1] /kjuː/ *BrE* ‖ **line** *AmE*— [(**of**)] *n* **1** a line of people, cars, etc., waiting to move, to get on a vehicle, to enter a building, etc.: *There was a long queue outside the cinema|at the bus stop.* | (fig.) *There's a queue of people waiting for new houses.* | (fig) *policies aimed at reducing the* **dole queues** (=the number of people without work) —see also **jump the queue** (JUMP[1] (14)) **2** *tech* a computer feature that allows similar operations of different users to be dealt with one at a time: *There are four jobs in the queue.* | *Shut down that queue as soon as it's empty.*

queue[2] *v* [I (UP, **for**)] *BrE* **1** to form or join a line while waiting: *We queued (up) for the bus.* | *People are queueing to buy tickets.* **2** [I;T (up)] *tech* to put into a QUEUE[1] (2): *I corrected the mistakes but I haven't queued the file yet.* | *Your job's queued up and should print out in a couple of minutes.*

queue-jump /ˈ· ·/ *v* [I] *BrE derog* to join a queue at a point in front of other people who have been waiting longer than oneself —**-jumper** *n*

quib·ble /ˈkwɪbəl/ *v* [I (**about, over, with**)] *derog* to argue about small unimportant points or details: *Don't quibble (with her) over the money; pay her what she asks.*— **quibble** *n* : *I have just one quibble* (=small complaint): *there's not enough salt.* —**-bler** *n*

quiche /kiːʃ/ *n* [C;U] a flat open pastry case filled with a mixture of eggs and cream and such things as cheese, BACON, and vegetables. In Britain and the US, there is an association of quiche with weakness, esp. in men, as in the saying "Real men don't eat quiche", used in a humorous way.

quick[1] /kwɪk/ *adj* **1 a** performing an action in an unusually short time; acting with speed; fast: *a quick worker | He's quick with his hands.* [F+*to-v*] *She's quick to learn/quick at learning. | His opponents were quick to take advantage of his mistake. | Bring me that book, and* **be quick about it**! (=hurry up) **b** done in a short time; soon finished: *a quick journey | a quick drink* **2** easily showing anger (in the phrases **a quick temper, quick tempered**) **3** *old use* living; alive: [also *n, the*+P] *the quick and the dead* **4** clever and able to learn or understand fast: *a quick learner | She's very quick.* —see CLEVER (USAGE) —**~ly** *adv* : *You got here quickly; did you come by car? | Come quickly; he's drowning! | The report was quickly prepared for publication.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

quick[2] *adv* quickly; fast: *Come quick; something terrible has happened! | Everyone wants to get rich quick. | a quick-acting drug*

quick[3] *n* [(*the*) U] the flesh to which the fingernails and toenails are joined: (fig.) *He* **cut me to the quick** (=upset me deeply) *with his unkind remark.*

quick bread /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* any of several kinds of bread which do not use YEAST so can be baked immediately: *a selection of quick bread recipes*

quick-change /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] (of an actor) frequently changing clothes during a performance: *a quick-change artist*

quick·en /ˈkwɪkən/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) become quicker: *the quickening pace of technological change* **2** *old use or lit* to (cause to) show life: *The seeds are quickening in the soil. | The recent television series has quickened* (=increased) *interest in this subject.*

quick·fire /ˈkwɪkfaɪəʳ/ *adj* sharp and lively, usu. of speech or conversation

quick·freeze /ˈkwɪkfriːz/ ‖ also **flashfreeze** *AmE*— *v* [T] to freeze food rapidly so that the quality is not damaged

quick·ie /ˈkwɪki/ *n infml* something done or made in a hurry: *a quickie divorce*

quick·lime /ˈkwɪk-laɪm/ *n* [U] LIME[1] (1)

quick·sand /ˈkwɪksænd/ *n* also **quicksands** *pl.*— [C;U] wet sand which sucks in anyone or anything that tries to cross it

quick·sil·ver /ˈkwɪkˌsɪlvəʳ/ *n* [U] *old use for* MERCURY

quick·step /ˈkwɪkstep/ *n* (music for) a dance with fast steps

quick-wit·ted /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* clever; quick to understand and take action

quid /kwɪd/ *n* **quid** *BrE infml* **1** a pound in money; £1: *She earns at least 200 quid a week.* **2 to be quids in** to be in a fortunate position: *If you can sell your car for the same price as you bought it, you'll be quids in.*

quid pro quo /ˌkwɪd prəʊ ˈkwəʊ/ *n* **quid pro quos** [(**for**)] *Lat* something given or received in exchange for something else: *We let them have a discount on purchases as a quid pro quo for the use of their computer.*

qui·es·cent /kwiˈesənt, kwaɪ-/ *adj fml* at rest; in a state of inactivity, esp. one that will not last —**~ly** *adv* —**-cence** *n* [U]

qui·et[1] /ˈkwaɪət/ *adj* **1** with little noise: *a quiet voice | Be quiet! I'm telephoning. | The latest model has a new quieter engine.* **2** without unwanted activity or excitement; untroubled; calm: *a quiet life | The situation at the border is fairly quiet at the moment.* (=without fighting, shooting, etc.) **3** not attracting attention: *Can I have a quiet word with you? | her quiet confidence* **4 All Quiet on the Western Front** the title of a book about the First World War. The phrase is now sometimes used humorously when talking about a period of calm and peace during an argument. —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

quiet[2] *n* [U] **1** the state of being quiet; quietness: *Calm down, children; give your father some* **peace and quiet**. **2 on the quiet** *infml* without telling anyone; secretly

qui·et·en /ˈkwaɪətn/ *BrE* ‖ **quiet** *AmE*— *v* **1** [I;T (DOWN)] to (cause to) become quiet: *The children were shouting, but they soon quietened down.* **2** [T] to make (fears, worries, etc.) less severe; ALLAY

qui·et·is·m /ˈkwaɪətɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** a religious system which teaches that one should give up all desires, and gain peace by thinking quietly about God and holy things **2** *often derog* calm acceptance of things as they are, without any effort to change them: *political quietism* —**-ist** *n*

qui·e·tude /ˈkwaɪətjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* calmness; stillness

qui·e·tus /kwaɪˈiːtəs, kwiˈeɪtəs‖kwaɪˈiːtəs/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *lit or fml rare* **1** death, or the act which brings it **2** the settlement of something by bringing it to an end: *She gave the false rumour its quietus.*

quiff /kwɪf/ *n BrE* the part of a man's hairstyle where the hair stands up at the front over the forehead

quill /kwɪl/ *n* **1** a bird's feather, esp. a long stiff one in the wing or tail **2** also **quill pen** /ˌ· ˈ·/— a pen made from this, used in former times **3** a sharp pointed growth on some animals —see picture at PORCUPINE

quilt /kwɪlt/ *n* a cloth cover for a bed filled with soft warm material such as feathers: *a patchwork quilt* —see also CONTINENTAL QUILT

quilt·ed /ˈkwɪltɪd/ *adj* made with cloth containing soft material with stitching across it: *a quilted housecoat*

quilting bee /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AmE old-fash* a group of women who get together to make QUILTS

quin /kwɪn/ *BrE* ‖ **quint** /kwɪnt/*AmE*— *n infml for* QUINTUPLET

quince /kwɪns/ *n* a hard fruit related to the apple, used esp. for making jelly

quin·ine /ˈkwɪniːn‖ˈkwaɪnaɪn/ *n* [U] a drug used for treating fevers, esp. MALARIA

quinine wa·ter /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* TONIC WATER

Quin·qua·ges·i·ma /ˌkwɪŋkwəˈdʒesɪmə/ *n* [U] *tech* the Sunday before Lent (from Latin quinquaginta, meaning 50, since Quinquagesima is about 50 days before Easter)

quin·tes·sence /kwɪnˈtesəns/ *n* [*the*+S+**of**] *fml* the perfect type or example: *John is the quintessence of good manners.* —**-sential** /ˌkwɪntɪˈsenʃəl◂/ *adj* : *This film is the quintessential horror movie.* —**-sentially** *adv*

quin·tet, -tette /kwɪnˈtet/ *n* **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] five singers or musicians performing together: *A quintet is/are playing tonight.* **2** a piece of music for five performers — compare QUARTET, SEXTET

quin·tu·plet /ˈkwɪntjʊplɪt, kwɪnˈtjuːp-‖kwɪnˈtʌp-/ also **quin** *BrE* ‖ **quint** *AmE*— *n* [*usu. pl.*] any of five children born of the same mother at the same time

quip[1] /kwɪp/ *n* a clever amusing remark made without planning it in advance

quip[2] *v* **-pp-** [I] to make a quip

quire /kwaɪəʳ/ *n* 24 pieces of paper —compare REAM[1] (1)

quirk /kwɜːk‖kwɜːrk/ *n* **1** a strange happening or accident: *By some* **quirk of fate** *the two of us were on the same train.* **2** a strange little habit or part of a person's character; FOIBLE: *One of his quirks is that he refuses to travel by train.* —**~y** *adj* —**~ily** *adv* —**~iness** *n* [U]

quis·ling /ˈkwɪzlɪŋ/ *n derog* someone who helps an enemy country that has taken control of his/her own country (from Vidkun Quisling, a Norwegian politician who helped the Germans in Norway during the Second World War)

quit[1] /kwɪt/ *v* **quit** (also **quitted** *BrE*) *present participle* **quitting** **1** [I;T] *infml* to stop (doing something) and leave: *I've quit my job.* [+*v-ing*] *I've quit working. | I'd had enough, so I quit.* **2** [T] *old use* to leave (a place)

quit[2] *adj* [F+**of**] *becoming rare* finished with; free of: *We're quit of all our difficulties.*

quite /kwaɪt/ *predeterminer, adv* **1** completely; perfectly: *quite different | I'm not quite ready to go. | "Are you ready?" "Not quite." | You're quite right. | If you want to go, that's quite all right with me. | not quite all/enough/so much | It's quite the best shop in the area. | I don't quite know what to say.* | (shows annoyance) *If you've quite finished interrupting, perhaps I can continue.* **2** *esp. BrE* to some degree; rather: *quite a good story | quite small | quite a lot of people | It takes quite a/some time. | It was*

quite good, but not perfect. **3** *esp. BrE* (used as an answer) I agree; that's true: *"It's unreasonable to expect any improvement at this stage." "Quite (so)."* **4** *AmE* very: *That meal was quite good.* **5 quite a/an** (*esp. AmE*) *often apprec* an unusual; an above average: *That was quite a party/quite some party.* (=it was unusually noisy or nice or long or wild) | *She's quite a girl.* **6 quite something** *infml* unusual, esp. very good: *It's quite something to be made a government minister at the age of 29: Criticism and Praise, Tentativeness*

▷ USAGE In American English, **quite** can be used to mean "very" in sentences where in British English it means "fairly": *That dress is* **quite** *nice* means "very nice" in American English and "fairly nice" in British English. —see also FAIRLY (USAGE)◁

quits /kwɪts/ *adj* [F (**with**)] *infml* back on an even level with someone after an argument, after repaying money which is owed, etc.: *Now we're quits.* | *I'm quits with him.* | *Give me £5 and we'll* **call it quits**. (=agree that nothing more is owed) —see also **double or quits** (DOUBLE²)

quit·tance /ˈkwɪtəns/ *n law* a statement freeing someone from repayment of money or from performing a duty

quit·ter /ˈkwɪtəʳ/ *n infml derog* a person who lacks the courage to finish things when they meet difficulties

quiv·er¹ /ˈkwɪvəʳ/ *v* [I (**with, at**)] to make a slight trembling movement, esp. from fear or excitement: *I quivered (with fear) at the sound.* | *Her voice was quivering with anger.* —**quiver** *n* : *I felt a quiver of excitement.*

quiver² *n* a container for carrying ARROWS

qui vive /ˌkiː ˈviːv/ *n Fr* **on the qui vive** *infml* watchful; careful to notice

quix·ot·ic /kwɪkˈsɒtɪk‖-ˈsɑː-/ *adj* trying to do the impossible, often so as to help others, while getting oneself into danger (from Don Quixote, HERO of the NOVEL *Don Quixote de la Mancha*): *His behaviour was very quixotic.* —see also DON QUIXOTE — ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

quiz¹ /kwɪz/ *n* **-zz-** **1** a competition or game in which competitors have to answer questions: *a TV quiz show* **2** *esp. AmE* a short examination: *The teacher gave us a quiz at the end of the lesson.*

quiz² *v* **-zz-** [T (**about**)] to ask questions of (someone), esp. repeatedly: *He quizzed me about where I'd been last night.*

quiz·mas·ter /ˈkwɪzmɑːstəʳ‖-mæ-/ *n esp. AmE for* QUESTION MASTER

quiz·zi·cal /ˈkwɪzɪkəl/ *adj* (of a smile or look) suggesting that one is asking a question without saying anything or that one is laughing at the other person: *a quizzical glance* —**-cally** /kli/ *adv*

quod /kwɒd‖kwɑːd/ *n* [(**in**) U] *BrE old-fash sl* a prison

quoit /kwɔɪt, kɔɪt/ *n* a ring that is thrown over a small upright post in a game (**quoits**) often played on ships

quon·dam /ˈkwɒndəm, -dæm‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *adj* [A] *pomp* (at) one time; former: *a quondam friend*

Quon·set hut /ˈkwɒnset ˌhʌt‖ˈkwɑːn-/ *n AmE tdmk* a large shelter with a round roof made of iron sheets —compare NISSEN HUT

quo·rate /ˈkwɔːrɻt/ *adj tech* (of a meeting) having a quorum present —opposite **inquorate**

Quorn /kwɔːn‖kwɔːrn/ *n* [U] *BrE tdmk* a vegetable PROTEIN used in cooking, esp. by non-meat eaters, instead of meat

quo·rum /ˈkwɔːrəm/ *n* a stated number of people, without whom a meeting cannot be held: *As soon as John arrives we will have a quorum, and the meeting can begin.*

quo·ta /ˈkwəʊtə/ *n* [(**of**)] a number or amount that has been officially fixed as someone's share, e.g. of goods that must be produced, people that can be allowed in a place, etc.: *The factory has fulfilled its production quota.* | *The university has exceeded its quota of science students.*

quo·ta·ble /ˈkwəʊtəbəl/ *adj* worthy of being quoted: *He uttered the very quotable remark "Never...have so many owed so much to so few".* —**-bility** /ˌkwəʊtəˈbɪlɻti/ *n* [U]

quo·ta·tion /kwəʊˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] also **quote** *infml*— a sentence or phrase taken from a work of literature or other piece of writing and repeated, esp. in order to prove a point or support an argument **2** [U] the act of quoting **3** [C] also **quote** *infml*— the calculated cost of a piece of work: *They gave me a quotation for mending the roof.* (=told me how much it would cost) —compare ESTIMATE² (2)

quotation mark /·ˈ·· ·/ also **inverted comma**— *n* either of a pair of marks (“ ”) or (‘ ’) showing the beginning and end of words quoted —see picture at PUNCTUATION MARK

quote¹ /kwəʊt/ *v* **1** [I (**from**);T] to repeat in speech or writing the words of (a person, a book, etc.): *She asked the newspaper reporter not to quote her remark.* | *The president was quoted as saying that he would not stand for reelection.* | *She quoted (from) the report to support her point.* | *Don't quote me on this* (=don't publicly repeat what I am saying), *but I think the company is in serious difficulties.* **2** [T] to mention (an example) to add force to one's argument: *She quoted several cases of unjust imprisonment.* **3** [T] to state (a price), e.g. for services offered: *He quoted £100 for mending the roof.* | *The company's shares are currently quoted at 84 pence.* —compare ESTIMATE¹ (2)

quote² *n infml* **1** a QUOTATION (1,3) **2 in quotes** in quotation marks

quote³ *adv* (used in speech to show that one is starting to quote): *The figures given are (quote) "not to be trusted" (unquote), according to this writer.*

quoth /kwəʊθ/ *v* **quoth I/he/she** *old use* I/he/she said: *"Here shall I stay for ever?" quoth the magic bird.*

quo·tid·i·an /kwəʊˈtɪdiən/ *adj* [A] *old use or fml* daily: *quotidian duties*

quo·tient /ˈkwəʊʃənt/ *n* a number which is the result when one number is divided by another

Qu·r'an /kɔːˈrɑːn, kə-‖kəˈræn, -ˈrɑːn/ *n* [*the*] the KORAN

q.v. *abbrev. for:* (*Lat*) quod vide; (used for telling readers to look in another place in the same book to find something out)

qwert·y /ˈkwɜːti‖ˈkwɜːrti/ *adj BrE* (of the KEYBOARD of a TYPEWRITER or computer) of the ordinary sort, whose top line begins with the letters Q, W, E, R, T, and Y

R

R /ɑːr/ **R's, r's** *or* **Rs, rs** **1** the 18th letter of the English alphabet **2** *AmE* (of a film) which children under 17 may not see except with an adult **3 unless there is an R in the month** except during the winter months (used when saying that certain foods should only be eaten during the winter months) —see also THREE R'S

R **1** *abbrev. for:* royal, as in R.A.F. **2** *written abbrev. for:* (on a map) river **3** *abbrev. for:* REX or REGINA: *Elizabeth R*

RA /ˌɑːr ˈeɪ/ *abbrev. for:* **1** REAR ADMIRAL **2** ROYAL ACADEMY **3** ROYAL ARTILLERY

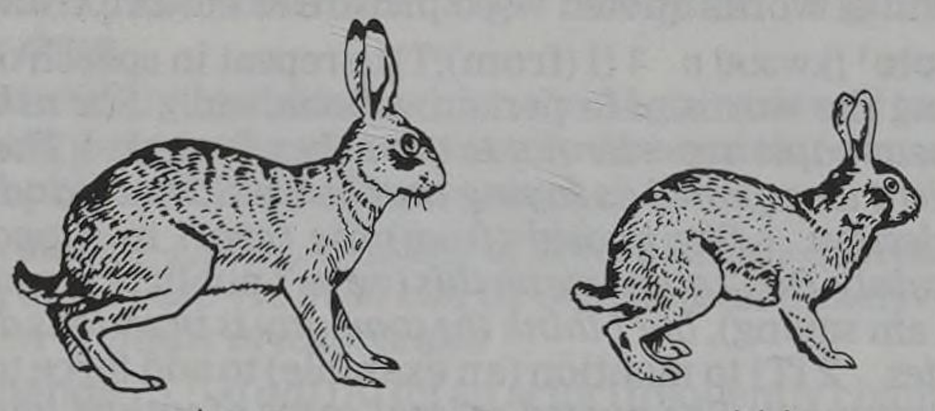
RAA /ˌɑːr eɪ ˈeɪ/ *abbrev. for:* ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

Ra·bat /rəˈbɑːt/ the capital city of Morocco, on the Atlantic coast

rab·bi /ˈræbaɪ/ *n* a Jewish priest —see FATHER (USAGE)

rab·bin·i·cal /rəˈbɪnɪkəl/ *adj* of or being the writings, teaching, etc., of Jewish religious leaders and teachers

rabbit



hare

rabbit

rab·bit[1] /ˈræbɨt/ *n* **1** [C] a common small long-eared animal that lives in a BURROW (=a hole it makes in the ground), and which is often kept as a pet. In the past some country people used to carry a rabbit's foot with them because they thought it would bring them luck. Rabbits are also known for producing large numbers of young very quickly and jokes are sometimes made about this. —compare HARE[1] **2** [U] the fur or meat of this animal **3** [C] *BrE infml* someone who plays a game badly: *I'm just a rabbit at tennis.*

rabbit[2] *v* **-tt-** *or* **-t-** [I (ON)] *infml derog, esp. BrE* to talk continuously, esp. in an uninteresting or complaining way: *He keeps rabbitting (on) about his health.*

rabbit ears /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [P] *AmE* (a plastic holder with) two movable rods in the shape of a V which sit on top of a television set and are connected to it by a wire. They serve as an AERIAL[1]: *We don't get very good reception with these rabbit ears.*

rabbit hole /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a hole where a rabbit lives. In the story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice goes down a rabbit hole and finds herself in a strange place where many surprising things happen. —see also ALICE IN WONDERLAND

rabbit hutch /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a wooden cage for pet rabbits

rabbit punch /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a quick blow on the back of the neck

rabbit war·ren /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an area where wild rabbits live in their BURROWS (=holes): (fig.) *The old city is a real rabbit warren.* (=consists of many narrow winding streets)

rab·ble /ˈræbəl/ *n* **1** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a noisy disorderly crowd of people; MOB **2** [*the*+S] *derog* the lower classes; the common people

rabble-rous·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *adj* (of a speaker or speech) exciting people to hatred and violence: *a rabble-rousing speech* —**rabble-rouser** *n*

Rab·e·lais /ˈræbəleɪ/, **Fran·çois** /ˈfrɒnswɑː‖frɑːnˈswɑː/ (1490–1553) a French writer whose books *Gargantua* and *Pantagruel* contain a mixture of often sexual humour, good sense, and sharp SATIRE

Ra·be·lai·si·an /ˌræbəˈleɪziən◂, -ʒən◂/ *adj* (of stories, writings, etc.) full of jokes about sex and the body that are shocking but harmless, like the work of the French writer Rabelais: *Rabelaisian humour*

rab·id /ˈræbɨd/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] *tech* suffering from rabies: *a rabid dog* **2** *derog* (of people or their opinions) violently and unreasoningly keen; fanatical (FANATIC): *a rabid Tory*

ra·bies /ˈreɪbiːz/ also **hydrophobia** *tech*— *n* [U] a disease of certain animals, including humans, passed on by the bite of an infected animal and causing madness and death

Ra·bin /ræˈbiːn/, **Itz·hak** /ˈɪtshɑːk/ (1922–) an Israeli soldier and politician who became PRIME MINISTER in 1992

RAC /ˌɑːr eɪ ˈsiː/ [*the*] Royal Automobile Club; a British organization for car owners which repairs or moves cars that have broken down: *I joined the RAC at the weekend.*

rac·coon , racoon /rəˈkuːn, ræ-‖ræ-/ also **coon** *AmE infml*— *n* **1** [C] a small meat-eating North American animal with a long black-ringed tail **2** [U] the thick fur of this animal: *a raccoon coat*

race[1] /reɪs/ *n* **1** [(**against, between, with**)] a competition in speed: *to have|run|lose|win a race | a ten-mile race | a boat race | a horse race* | (fig.) *a race against time* (=an attempt to complete something before it is too late) **2** *tech or lit* a strong flow of water: *A mill-race is the stream of water driving a water-mill.* —see also ARMS RACE, RAT RACE

race[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to compete in a race (against): *She's a very good swimmer and often races. | I'll race you to the end of the road.* **2** [I;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to (cause to) move or go very fast; RUSH: *He came racing across the road. | We raced the sick woman to hospital. | We really had to race to get the work finished in time.* | (fig.) *The holidays raced by.* —see RUN (USAGE) **3** [T] to cause (an animal or vehicle) to run a race: *My horse has hurt his foot so I can't race him.* **4** [I] (of an engine) to run too fast, esp. because the machine that it drives is disconnected

race[3] *n* **1** [C] any of the main groups into which human beings can be divided according to their physical type: *the black|white|brown races* **2** [U] the fact of belonging to one of these groups: *The law forbids discrimination on the grounds of race or religion. | race relations* (=relations between different races) | *a person of mixed race* (=with parents who each belong to a different race) **3** [C] a group of people with the same history, language, customs, etc.: *the German race* **4** [C] *tech* a breed or type of animal or plant: *They bred an improved race of cattle.* —see also RACISM, HUMAN RACE

▷ USAGE **Race, nation, state,** and **tribe** are all words for large groups into which human beings may be divided. The largest of these groups is a **race**, a group of people of the same colour and/or physical type. A **nation** is a group of people who share a common history and usually a language, and usually but not always live in the same area: *the Native American* **nations**. A **state** is either a politically independent country, or one of the **states** making up a country such as the US: *The German* **nation** *was divided into two* **states,** *East Germany and West Germany*. A **tribe** is a social group, smaller than a **nation,** sharing the same customs and usually the same language, and often following an ancient way of life: *a wandering* **tribe** *of hunters in the Amazon forest.*◁

race car /ˈ· ·/ *AmE* for RACING CAR

race·course /ˈreɪs-kɔːs‖-kɔːrs/ *n* **1** *BrE* a track round which horses race **2** *AmE* a racetrack

race·horse /ˈreɪshɔːs‖-hɔːrs/ *n* a horse specially bred and trained for racing

race meet·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n BrE* an occasion when horse races are held at a particular place

race norm·ing /ˈreɪs ˌnɔːmɪŋ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [U] *BrE* the practice of giving people of different races equal chances by giving employment, HIGHER EDUCATION, etc. to a certain number of each race according to their relative numbers in the society

rac·er /ˈreɪsəʳ/ *n* an animal bred and trained for racing, or a vehicle planned for use in races

race re·la·tions /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [P] relations between people of different racial origin in a country. Britain has many different racial groups, including Indians, Pakistanis, and West Indians. Their interests are looked after by the Commission for Racial Equality. The US also has many different racial groups, including blacks, Hispanics, and Asians, as well as whites. Race relations, esp. in the large cities, are often a problem.

Race Re·la·tions Act /ˌ·· ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] an Act of Parliament passed in 1976 to protect the legal rights of racial minorities (MINORITY) in Britain and to make sure that people are treated fairly whatever their colour, race, or nationality —see also COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

rac·es /ˈreɪsɨz/ *n* [*the*+P] a race meeting: *a day at the races*

race·track /ˈreɪs-træk/ *n* a track round which runners, cars, horses, etc., race

Rach·man·i·noff /rækˈmænɨnɒf‖rɑːkˈmɑːnɨnɔːf/, **Ser·gei Was·sil·ie·vitch** /ˈseəgeɪ væˈsɪləvɪtʃ‖seərˈgeɪ-/ (1873–1943) Russian COMPOSER, best known for his piano CONCERTOS and symphonies (SYMPHONY)

ra·cial /ˈreɪʃəl/ *adj* **1** of or connected with a person's race: *racial pride|customs* **2** existing or happening between different races of people: *racial violence|harmony|segregation*

racial dis·crim·i·na·tion /ˌ·· ···ˈ··/ *n* [U] the unfair treatment of people because of their race. Racial discrimination is illegal in Britain and the US, and people and companies can be PROSECUTED (=brought before a court of law) for practising it. Racial discrimination can be difficult to prove, however, as it can be very SUBTLE (=existing, but hard to recognize). —see also COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY, RACE RELATIONS ACT

racial en·gi·neer·ing /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *n BrE* [U] the practice of doing things to give people of different races in a society equal chances in employment, education, etc. — compare AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

racial e·qual·i·ty /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the state in which all the races in a society have the same chances of employment, education, etc.

ra·cial·is·m /ˈreɪʃəlɪzəm/ *n BrE* [U] RACISM —**-ist** *n, adj*

ra·cial·ly /ˈreɪʃəli/ *adv* from the point of view of race: *a racially mixed population*

Ra·cine /ræˈsiːn/, **Jean** /ʒɒn‖ʒɑːn/ (1639–99) a French writer for the theatre, noted for his powerful plays based on CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY and history

rac·ing /ˈreɪsɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** used for racing in competitions: *a racing car | a racing pigeon* **2** interested in or concerned with racing: *a racing club* —see also FLAT RACING

racing car /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **racecar** *AmE*

ra·cis·m /ˈreɪsɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** the belief that racial differences between people are the main influence on their characters and abilities, and esp. that one's own race is the best **2** dislike or unfair treatment of people based on this belief —compare XENOPHOBIA —**-cist** *n, adj* : *racist policies | a racist attack*

racks



vegetable rack



magazine rack

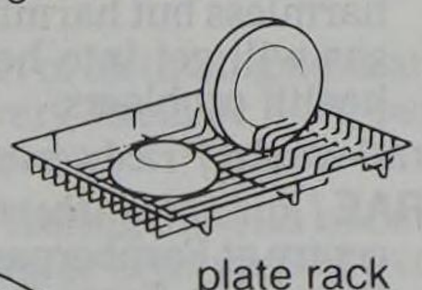
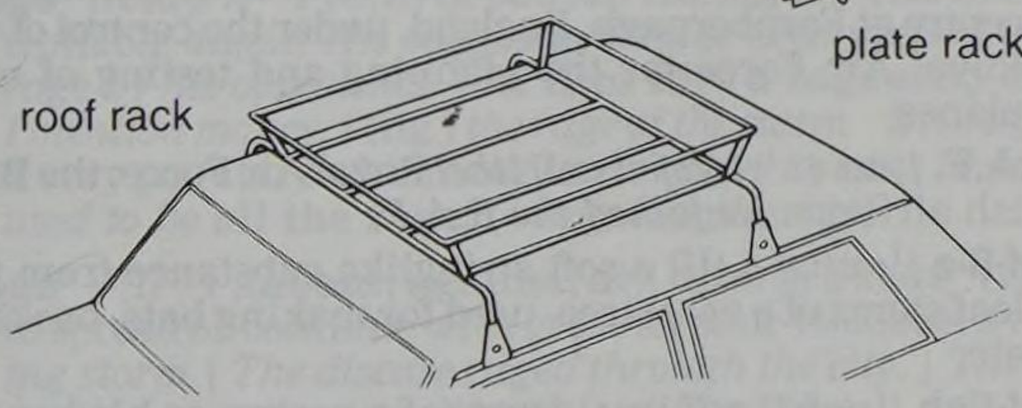


plate rack



roof rack

rack[1] /ræk/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a frame or shelf with bars, hooks, etc., for holding things: *Wash the dishes then put them in the plate rack to dry.* —see also LUGGAGE RACK, ROOF RACK **2** [*the*] an instrument formerly used to TORTURE people (=to cause them great pain) by stretching their bodies **3** [C] a part of a machine consisting of a bar with teeth on one edge, moved along by a PINION (=a wheel with teeth round its edge) **4 on the rack** suffering from severe pain or anxiety

rack[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**by, with**)] to cause great pain or anxiety to; TORMENT: *He was racked with pain|by doubts.* **2 rack one's brains** to think very deeply or for a long time: *I really had to rack my brains to remember his name.*

rack sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v AmE infml* **1** to gain (points, etc.) in a competition **2** to hurt; INJURE: *I've racked up my knee, so I can't play.*

rack[3], **wrack** *n* [U] **rack and ruin** a ruined state, esp. of a building, caused by lack of care: *The house was unoccupied for several years and went to rack and ruin|is in rack and ruin.*

rack[4], **wrack** *n* [C;U] *lit* (a) floating cloud

rack·et[1], **racquet** /ˈrækɨt/ *n* an instrument consisting of a network usu. of nylon stretched in a frame with a handle, used for hitting the ball in games such as tennis — see also RACKETS and see picture at TENNIS

racket[2] *n infml* **1** [S] a loud noise: *Stop making such a racket! I can't sleep.* **2** [C] **a** a dishonest way of getting money, for example by threatening people or selling them goods which are useless or illegal: *a drugs racket* **b** *humor* any business or trade —see also PROTECTION RACKET

rack·e·teer /ˌrækɨˈtɪəʳ/ *n derog* someone who works a RACKET[2] (2a): *Al Capone was a famous racketeer in Chicago.*

rack·ets , racquets /ˈrækɨts/ *n* [U] a fast ball game for two or four players, played with rackets and a hard ball in an enclosed court that is smaller than for SQUASH[2] (2)

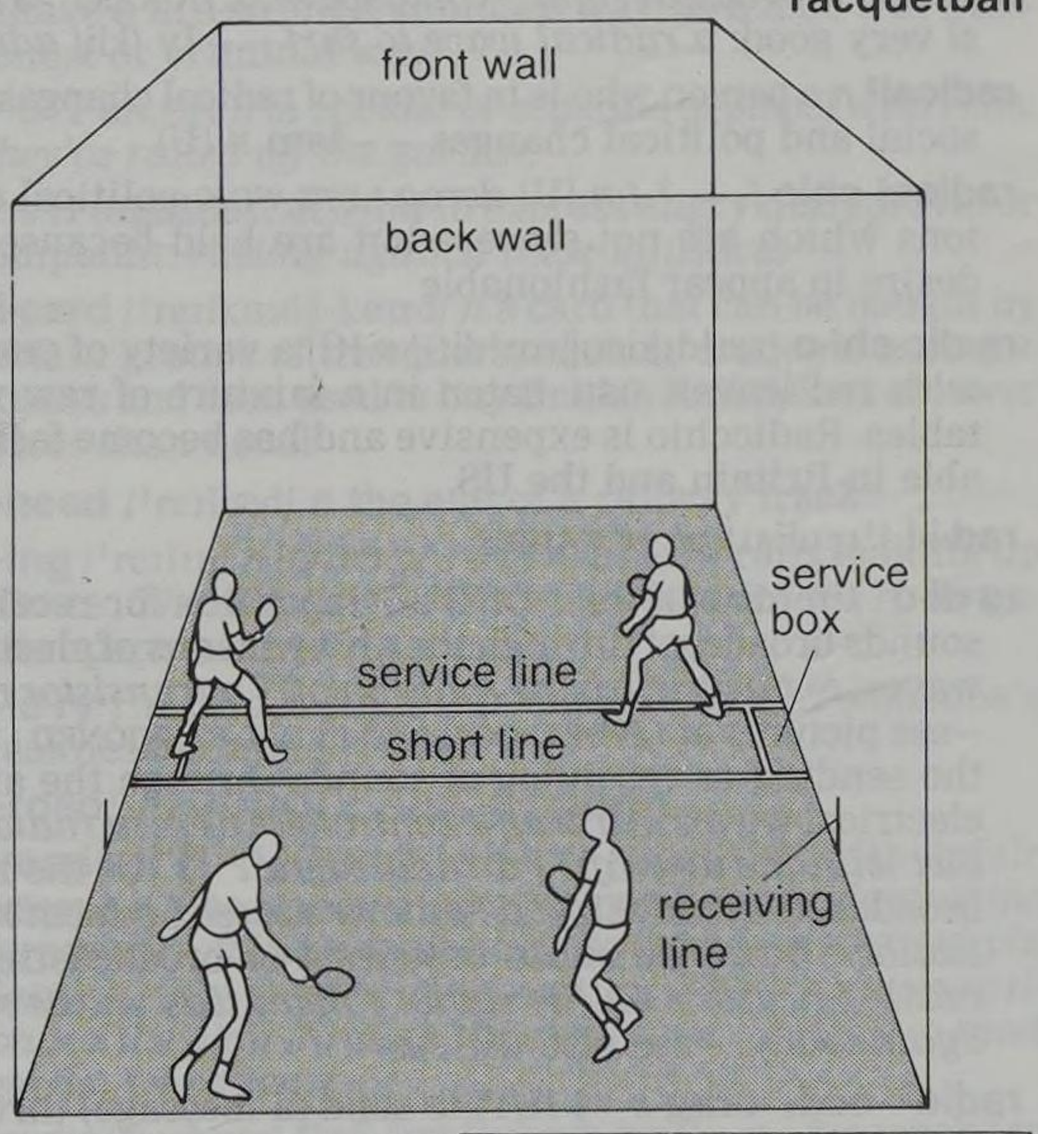
Rack·ham /ˈrækəm/, **Arthur** (1867–1939) an English artist who drew pictures for books, esp. fairy stories

rac·on·teur /ˌrækɒnˈtɜːʳ‖-kɑːn-/ *n* someone who is good at telling stories in an interesting and amusing way

ra·coon /rəˈkuːn, ræ-‖ræ-/ *n* a RACCOON

rac·quet /ˈrækɨt/ *n* a RACKET[1]

racquetball



see also picture at squash

rac·quet·ball /ˈrækɨtbɔːl/ *n* [U] a game played in a four-walled court by two or four people following the rules of HANDBALL but using a short-handled RACKET[1]. It is popular esp. in the US. —compare SQUASH

rac·quets /ˈrækɨts/ *n* [U] RACKETS

rac·y /ˈreɪsi/ *adj* (of speech or writing) amusing, full of life, and perhaps dealing with sex: *racy stories* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

RADA /ˈrɑːdə/ Royal Academy of Dramatic Art; a school in London for people who want to become actors

ra·dar /ˈreɪdɑːʳ/ *n* [U] a method of finding the position of solid objects by receiving and measuring the speed of radio waves returning from them: *There are enemy aircraft on the radar screen.*

radar trap /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a method, using radar, employed by police to catch motorists who are driving faster than the legal speed

ra·di·al[1] /ˈreɪdiəl/ *adj* arranged like a wheel; with bars, lines, etc., coming from the centre —~**ly** *adv*

radial[2] also **radial tyre** /ˌ··· ˈ·/ — *n* a car tyre with cords inside the rubber that go across the edge of the wheel rather than along it, so as to give better control —compare CROSS-PLY

ra·di·ant /ˈreɪdiənt/ *adj* **1** [A] sending out light or heat in all directions; shining: *the radiant sun* **2** [(**with**)] (of a person or his/her appearance) showing love and happiness: *her radiant face | She was radiant with joy.* **3** [A] *tech* sent out by radiation: *radiant heat* —~**ly** *adv* —**-ance** *n* [C;U]

ra·di·ate /ˈreɪdieɪt/ *v* [T] to send out (light or heat) in all directions: (fig.) *She radiated happiness|confidence.*

radiate from sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to come out or spread in all directions from: *A system of roads radiates from the town centre.*

ra·di·a·tion /ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the radiating of heat, light, etc. **2** [C] something which is radiated: *This apparatus produces harmful radiations.* **3** [U] RADIOACTIVITY (2): *an escape of low-level radiation from the nuclear power plant*

radiation sick·ness /··ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [U] sickness that results from strong radiation (3), marked by NAUSEA, vomiting (VOMIT[1]) and hair and teeth loss

ra·di·a·tor /ˈreɪdieɪtəʳ/ *n* **1** an apparatus, esp. one consisting of pipes with steam or hot water passing through them, used for heating buildings —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** an apparatus which keeps the engine of a motor vehicle cool —see pictures at CAR, ENGINE

rad·i·cal[1] /ˈrædɪkəl/ *adj* **1** (of a change) having wide and important effects; thorough and complete: *a radical reform of our tax system | The talks are aimed at radical reductions in the level of weapons.* **2** (of a person or his/her opinions) in favour of thorough and complete political change: *radical views | the radical wing of the party | the radical right* —compare REACTIONARY **3** *AmE sl* very good: *a radical wave to surf* —~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

radical[2] *n* a person who is in favour of radical changes, esp. social and political changes —~**ism** *n* [U]

radical chic /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *derog* LEFT WING political opinions which are not sincere but are held because of a desire to appear fashionable

ra·dic·chi·o /ræˈdɪkiəʊ‖rɑːˈdiː-/ *n* [C] a variety of CHICORY with red leaves, usu. eaten in a mixture of raw vegetables. Radicchio is expensive and has become fashionable in Britain and the US.

rad·i·i /ˈreɪdiaɪ/ *pl. of* RADIUS

ra·di·o[1] /ˈreɪdiəʊ/ *n* **-os** **1** [C] an apparatus for receiving sounds broadcast through the air by means of electrical waves: *to turn|switch the radio on|off | a transistor radio* —see pictures at LIVING ROOM and at OLD-FASHIONED **2** [U] the sending or receiving of sounds through the air by electrical waves: *Air traffic controllers were in radio contact with the aircraft. | a radio signal* **3** [U] the radio broadcasting industry: *a radio producer | a local radio station* **4 on the radio** broadcast or broadcasting by radio: *I heard it on the radio. | John was on the radio again today.* —see also AM, FM

radio[2] **-oed, -oing** *v* **1** [I;T] to send (a message) through the air by means of electrical waves: *The ship radioed for help. | We must radio the message at once.* **2** [T] to send a message to (a place or person) in this way: *They radioed London for permission to land.*

Radio 1 /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈwʌn/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts mostly POP[3] music and is listened to mostly by young people

Radio 2 /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈtuː/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts mostly music and ENTERTAINMENT programmes and is listened to esp. by older people

Radio 3 /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈθriː/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts mostly CLASSICAL music

Radio 4 /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈfɔːʳ/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts programmes on news and current affairs as well as plays and arts programmes. Radio 4 is considered to be a quality station and listened to by educated people.

Radio 5 /ˌreɪdiəʊ ˈfaɪv/ *n* [U] a BBC radio station which broadcasts a variety of programmes

radio- see WORD FORMATION

ra·di·o·ac·tive /ˌreɪdiəʊˈæktɪv◂/ *adj* possessing or produced by radioactivity: *a highly radioactive material | radioactive contamination*

radioactive dat·ing /ˌ····· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *AmE* CARBON DATING

radioactive waste /ˌ····· ˈ·/ also **radwaste** *AmE* — *n* [U] the radioactive BY-PRODUCTS from a NUCLEAR REACTOR, which are difficult to get rid of safely and are usu. buried

ra·di·o·ac·tiv·i·ty /ˌreɪdiəʊækˈtɪvɨti/ *n* [U] **1** the quality, harmful to living things, that some simple substances (ELEMENTS) have of giving out force (ENERGY) by the breaking up of atoms **2** the ENERGY given out in this way: *Some of the workers were exposed to radioactivity.*

radio a·larm /ˈ··· ·ˌ·/ also **clock radio** — *n* a clock that can be set to turn on a radio to wake someone who is asleep —compare ALARM CLOCK

radio bea·con /ˈ··· ˌ··/ also **beacon** — *n* a station that sends out radio signals to help planes to find their way

radio car /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a car fitted with radio for speaking to people away from the car

ra·di·o·car·bon dat·ing /ˌreɪdiəʊkɑːbən ˈdeɪtɪŋ‖-kɑːr-/ *n* [U] CARBON DATING

Radio City Mu·sic Hall /ˌ··· ·· ˈ·· ·/ a large theatre in New York City, which often had shows with lots of singing and dancing —see also ROCKETTES

radio fre·quen·cy /ˈ··· ˌ···/ *n* the FREQUENCY of the radio waves commonly used in broadcasting

ra·di·o·gram /ˈreɪdiəʊgræm/ *n* **1** *BrE* a piece of furniture, popular esp. formerly, combining a radio and a record player **2** a message that has been radioed

ra·di·og·ra·pher /ˌreɪdiˈɒgrəfəʳ‖-ˈɑːg-/ *n* a person who makes or studies X-RAY photographs, esp. of people's bodies, or who treats illnesses with X-RAYS

ra·di·og·ra·phy /ˌreɪdiˈɒgrəfi‖-ˈɑːg-/ *n* [U] the taking of photographs made with short waves (X-RAYS), usu. for medical reasons

ra·di·ol·o·gy /ˌreɪdiˈɒlədʒi‖-ˈɑː-/ *n* [U] the study and medical use of RADIOACTIVITY —**-gist** *n*

radio tel·e·scope /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* a radio receiver used for following the movements of the stars and of spacecraft

ra·di·o·ther·a·py /ˌreɪdiəʊˈθerəpi/ *n* [U] the treatment of illnesses by RADIOACTIVITY —**-pist** *n*

Radio Times /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] a weekly magazine which gives details of programmes on radio and television

rad·ish /ˈrædɪʃ/ *n* a small vegetable whose red or white sometimes hot-tasting root is eaten raw: *a bunch of radishes* —see picture at VEGETABLE

ra·di·um /ˈreɪdiəm/ *n* [U] a rare shining white metal that is a simple substance (ELEMENT), is RADIOACTIVE, and is used in the treatment of certain illnesses, esp. CANCER

ra·di·us /ˈreɪdiəs/ *n* **-dii** /diaɪ/ **1** (the length of) a straight line going from the side of a circle to the centre — compare DIAMETER (1) **2** a stated circular area measured from its centre point: *This tax affects every household within a ten-mile radius of the town.* **3** the outer bone of the lower arm —see picture at SKELETON

ra·don /ˈreɪdɒn‖-dɑːn/ *n* [U] *tech* a RADIOACTIVE gas, usu. harmless but harmful in large amounts. Sometimes the gas will get into houses, where it is thought to cause health problems.

rad·waste /ˈrædweɪst/ *n* [U] *AmE for* RADIOACTIVE WASTE

RAE /ˌɑːr eɪ ˈiː/ [*the*] the Royal Aircraft Establishment; a centre at Farnborough, England, under the control of the Royal Air Force for the planning and testing of new planes

R.A.F. /ˌɑːr eɪ ˈef, *infml* ræf/ [*the*] Royal Air Force; the British airforce: *He joined the R.A.F.*

raf·fi·a /ˈræfiə/ *n* [U] a soft stringlike substance from the leaf stems of a PALM tree, used for making hats, baskets, etc.

raf·fish /ˈræfɪʃ/ *adj usu. derog* (of a person or his/her behaviour or appearance) happy, wild, and not very respectable; DISREPUTABLE: *a raffish young man | raffish parties* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

raf·fle[1] /ˈræfəl/ *n* a way of making money, esp. for some good public purpose, by selling numbered tickets, some of which win prizes: *a raffle ticket | He won a car in the raffle.* —compare DRAW[2] (2), LOTTERY

raffle[2] *v* [T (OFF)] to offer as the prize in a raffle: *They're raffling (off) a colour TV.*

Raf·fles /ˈræfəlz/ [*the*] the name of a famous hotel in Singapore, where English people stayed in COLONIAL times

Raf·san·ja·ni /ˌræfsænˈdʒɑːni/, **Ho·ja·tol·es·lam Al·i Ak·bar Hash·e·mi** /ˈhəʊdʒætɒlɪˌslɑːm ˈæli ˈækbɑːr ˈhæʃemi ‖ ˈɑːli-/ (1934–) an Iranian religious teacher and politician who became state President after the death of Ayatollah Khomeini in 1989

raft[1] /rɑːft‖ræft/ *n* **1** [C] a flat floating structure, usu. made of wood, used as a boat or as a landing place for swimmers **2** [C] also **life raft**– a small flat rubber boat that can be filled with air, for the use of passengers on a sinking ship or crashed aircraft **3** [S+**of**] *infml, esp. AmE* a large number or amount: *A whole raft of people came for drinks.*

raft[2] *v* [I;T] to travel or carry on a raft: *They rafted (the stores) down the river.*

raf·ter /ˈrɑːftəʳ‖ˈræf-/ *n* any of the large sloping esp. wooden beams that hold up a roof

rag[1] /ræg/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a small piece of) old cloth: *He cleaned the machine with an oily rag|a piece of oily rag.* | (fig.) *I feel* **like a wet rag**. (=very tired) **2** [C *usu. pl.*] an old worn-out garment: *The beggar was dressed in rags.* –see also GLAD RAGS **3** [C] *infml, usu. derog* a newspaper, esp. one of low quality: *the local rag* **4 from rags to riches** from being very poor to being very rich: *a brilliant young footballer whose talent took him from rags to riches* **5 on the rag** *AmE sl* having a PERIOD (4)

rag[2] *n esp. BrE* **1** an amusing procession of college students through the streets on a special day (**rag day**) or during a special week (**rag week**) each year, collecting money for CHARITY **2** *old-fash* a rough but harmless trick: *They pushed him into the river for|as a rag.*

rag[3] *v* **-gg-** [T] *old-fash, esp. BrE* to play rough tricks on or make fun of: *They ragged him about his big ears.*

rag[4] *n* a piece of music written in RAGTIME

ra·ga /ˈrɑːgə/ *n* **1** any of the many ancient patterns of notes in Indian music **2** a piece of music based on one of these patterns: *an evening raga*

rag·a·muf·fin /ˈrægəˌmʌfɨn/ *n esp. lit* a dirty young child in torn clothes

rag-and-bone man /ˌ·· ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a man who goes round the streets with a LORRY or a horse and CART[1] buying things such as old clothes that people do not want

rag·bag /ˈrægbæg/ *n* [(**of**)] *often derog* a confused mixture

rag doll



rag doll /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a soft DOLL made out of cloth. Rag dolls are known for being FLOPPY, and a very tired, or hurt, person is sometimes compared to one.

rage[1] /reɪdʒ/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a sudden feeling of) wild uncontrollable anger: *His suggestions have been greeted with rage by his opponents.* | *He* **flies into a rage** *every time I mention money.* | (fig.) *the rage of the storm* **2** [C] *infml* a very popular fashion: *the latest rage* | *Dresses like this used to be* **all the rage.** (=very fashionable)

rage[2] *v* [I] **1** [(**about, against, at**)] to be in a RAGE[1] (1) **2** to spread or continue with great force or violence: *a raging storm* | *The disease raged through the city.* | *The argument over the new airport is still raging.*

rag·ged /ˈrægɨd/ *adj* **1** also **raggedy** *AmE*–old and torn: *a ragged shirt* **2** dressed in old torn clothes: *a ragged boy* **3** (of work) seeming unfinished and imperfect: *The musicians gave a ragged performance.* **4** with uneven edges or surfaces: *a ragged beard* **5 ragged edge** *AmE* a difficult or dangerous position: *So many horrible things have happened to him recently that he feels like he's* **on the ragged edge.** – ~**ly** *adv* : *raggedly dressed* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

Rag·ged·y Ann /ˌrægɨdi ˈæn/ *n AmE tdmk* a toy DOLL made from rags. She usu. has red hair and red spots on her cheeks. The male doll which looks like this is called **Raggedy Andy**.

rag·lan /ˈræglən/ *adj* [A] (of an arm of a garment) joined with two sideways lines of sewing from the arm to the neck, instead of being sewn on at the shoulder: *a coat with raglan sleeves* | *a raglan sweater*

ra·gout /ræˈguː, ˈrægu:‖ræˈguː/ *n* [C;U] *Fr* (a) mixture of vegetables and pieces of meat boiled together; STEW

rags-to-rich·es /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *adj* [A] (of a story, a CAREER, etc.) about a person who comes from a poor background and becomes very successful and wealthy: *Her life is a rags-to-riches story.*

rag·time /ˈrægtaɪm/ *n* [U] a type of music, song, and dance of black US origin, popular in the 1920s, in which the strong note of the tune is syncopated (SYNCOPATE): *a ragtime band* | *a song in ragtime*

rag trade /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] *infml* the garment industry, esp. the making and selling of women's clothes

raid[1] /reɪd/ *n* [(**on**)] **1** a quick attack on an enemy position, not to take control of the place but to do damage: *a bombing raid.* | *a cross-border raid* | (fig., *humor*) *The hungry children made a raid on the kitchen and took all the cakes.* –see also AIR RAID, DAWN RAID **2** a sudden visit by the police, in search of criminals or illegal goods: *As a result of the raid three people were charged with possessing illegal drugs.*

raid[2] *v* [I;T] to visit or attack (a place) on a raid: *Police raided the club.* – ~**er** *n*

rail[1] /reɪl/ *n* **1** [C] a fixed bar, esp. one to hang things on or for protection: *Keep your hand on the rail as you climb the steps.* | *a towel rail* **2** [C] either of the pair of metal bars fixed to the ground, along which a train runs: *Passengers must not cross the rails.* **3** [U] the railway: *We'll travel by rail.* | *rail travel* **4 go off the rails** to start to behave **a** in a strange, confused way, as if mad **b** in a dishonest or criminal way

rail[2] *v* [T (IN, OFF)] to enclose or separate (a place) with rails: *They've railed off the garden.*

rail[3] *v* [I (**against, at**)] *fml* to express angry disapproval or complaint: *railing against these injustices*

Rail·card /ˈreɪlkɑːd‖-kɑːrd/ *n* a card that can be bought by certain groups of travellers, such as students and PENSIONERS and then used to buy British Rail tickets at lower prices than usual

rail·head /ˈreɪlhed/ *n* the end of a railway track

rail·ing /ˈreɪlɪŋ/ *n* [*often pl.*] any of a set of rails making up a fence: *The dog got its head stuck between the railings.* –compare BANISTER, HANDRAIL

rail·le·ry /ˈreɪlərɪ/ *n* [U] *fml* friendly joking at someone's weakness; teasing (TEASE)

rail·road[1] /ˈreɪlrəʊd/ *n AmE* a railway

railroad[2] *v* [T] **1** [(**into**)] to hurry (someone) with unfair pressure: *The workers were railroaded into signing the agreement.* **2** [(**through**)] to pass (a law) or carry out (a plan) quickly in spite of opposition: *The chairman railroaded the plan through the committee.* **3** *AmE* to send (goods) by railway

rail·way /ˈreɪlweɪ/ *BrE* ‖ **railroad** *AmE*– *n* **1** a track for trains: *a railway locomotive* **2** also **railways** *pl.*– a system of these tracks, with its engines, stations, etc.: *I got a job on the railway(s) as a booking clerk.*

railway line /ˈ·· ·/ also **railway track** *BrE* ‖ **railroad** *AmE*– *n BrE* a stretch of railway going between one place and another: *the London to Leeds railway line* | *a disused railway line*

rail·way·man /ˈreɪlweɪmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *BrE* a man who works on the railways

railway sta·tion /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **railroad station** *AmE*– *n* a STATION (1)

rai·ment /ˈreɪmənt/ *n* [U] *lit* clothes

rain[1] /reɪn/ *n* **1** [U] water falling in separate drops from the clouds; the fall of these drops: *The rain fell continuously.* | *The crops need rain.* | *She went out in the rain without a coat.* | **It looks like rain**. (=there will probably be rain) | *a rain cloud* | (*BrE*) *It's pouring with rain.* (=raining very hard) **2** [C] a fall of rain of the stated type: *A heavy rain began to fall.* **3** [S+**of**] a thick fall: *a rain*

of arrows|of questions **4 as right as rain** *infml* in perfect health: *Jane's been ill, but she's as right as rain now.* **5 (come) rain or shine** whatever happens; whether things are good or bad: *She's always there, come rain or shine.* —see also RAINS, ACID RAIN —**~less** *adj*

▷ USAGE 1 Compare **rain, hail, snow,** and **sleet. Rain** is water falling from the clouds. **Hail** is rain which falls as hard, frozen drops. **Snow** is frozen rain that falls in soft, white pieces. **Sleet** is rain falling as snow but partly melted. 2 If it is raining very heavily we say it is **pouring**, but if it is raining very lightly we say it is **drizzling.** 3 A **shower** is a fall of rain that does not last very long. A **downpour** is a heavy fall of rain. A **blizzard** is a heavy fall of snow, with strong winds.◁

rain[2] *v* **1** [*it*+I] (of rain) to fall: *It's raining.* | *It began to rain hard.* **2** [I+*adv|prep*;T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to (cause to) fall like rain: *Tears rained down her cheeks.* | *Their rich uncle rained gifts on the children.* | *to rain (down) insults on someone* **3 it never rains but it pours** *saying* when one thing goes wrong, everything starts to go wrong **4 rain cats and dogs** *infml* to rain very heavily

rain sthg. ↔ **off** *BrE* ‖ **rain** sthg. ↔ **out** *esp. AmE*—*phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] *infml* to cause (an event or activity) to stop because of rain: *The game was rained off.*

rain·bow /ˈreɪnbəʊ/ *n* an arch of different colours that sometimes appears in the sky after rain: (fig.) *They've painted their house (in)* **all the colours of the rainbow**. (=in many bright colours)

►CULTURAL NOTE People think of the rainbow in connection with the Bible story of the FLOOD, in which God sent a rainbow as a promise that there would not be another great flood like the one Noah had lived through. In another old story, a CROCK (=a large container) of gold (*AmE* pot of gold) is found where a rainbow meets the ground, and phrases like "at the rainbow's end" are sometimes used in speaking of people who find (or hope to find) what they always wanted, as if by magic.◄

rainbow co·a·li·tion /ˈ·· ··ˌ··/ *n AmE* a group of people of different races who work together on social and political problems, esp. problems of CIVIL RIGHTS

rainbow guide /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a member of an association, the youngest branch of the **Guides**, for training girls aged five to seven to be independent

Rainbow War·ri·or /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*] a ship belonging to the organization Greenpeace which is used to get information about actions which harm the environment, and to prevent them

rain check /ˈ· ·/ *n infml, esp. AmE* a ticket which can be used another time, given to the holder of a ticket for an event (such as a game, play, or CONCERT) which is not going to take place: *Rainchecks were issued to the fans and the game was rescheduled for tomorrow night.* | (fig.) *"Can I buy you a cup of coffee?" "No thanks, but I'll take a rain-check."* (=I'll accept your invitation at another time)

rain·coat /ˈreɪnkəʊt/ *n* a light coat worn to keep the wearer dry when it rains

rain·drop /ˈreɪndrɒp‖-drɑːp/ *n* a single drop of rain

rain·fall /ˈreɪnfɔːl/ *n* [C;U] the amount of rain or snow that falls in an area in a certain time: *This area has (a) very low rainfall.*

rain for·est /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a tropical forest with tall trees growing thickly together and with a high rainfall. People usu. think of the rain forest of South America, known for its many different SPECIES of plant and animal life. There is a lot of discussion about the destruction of the rain forest and the effect this has on the world CLIMATE, and many people feel that the rain forest must be preserved.

rain gauge /ˈ· ·/ *n* an instrument for measuring the rainfall

Rai·ni·er /ˈreniəʳ ‖ rəˈnɪər/, **Mount** a mountain in the W of Washington State, US, the highest mountain in the Cascade Range

Rai·ni·er III /ˌreɪnieɪ ðə ˈθɜːd ‖ rəˌnɪər ðə ˈθɜːrd/ (1923–) the Prince of Monaco, who married the American film actress Grace Kelly

rain·proof /ˈreɪnpruːf/ *adj* able to keep rain out: *The roof is no longer rainproof.*

rains /reɪnz/ *n* [*the*+P] the season in tropical countries when rain falls continually; MONSOON: *The rains have started early this year.*

rain·storm /ˈreɪnstɔːm‖-ɔːrm/ *n* a sudden heavy fall of rain

rain·wa·ter /ˈreɪnwɔːtəʳ‖-wɔː-, -wɑː-/ *n* [U] water that has fallen as rain

rain·wear /ˈreɪnweəʳ/ *n* [U] clothes to be worn in the rain which do not allow water through

rain·y /ˈreɪni/ *adj* **1** having a lot of rain: *a very rainy day|place* | *the rainy season* (=the rains) **2 for a rainy day** for a (future) time when money may be needed: *to save up for a rainy day.*

raise[1] /reɪz/ *v* [T] **1** to lift, push, or move upwards: *He raised the lid of the box.* | *I raised my hat.* | *She raised her finger to her lips as a sign for silence.* | *He raised the fallen child to its feet.* (=helped it to stand) —opposite **lower** **2** [(**to**)] **a** to increase in amount, size, etc.: *to raise the rent|the temperature|someone's pay* **b** to bring to a higher level, rank, or degree: *The builders raised the ceiling by six inches.* | *He was raised to the rank of captain.* | *to raise one's voice* (=shout) *in anger* | *I don't want to raise your hopes unduly.* (=make you too hopeful) —opposite **lower** **3** to collect together: *The king raised an army.* | *an appeal to raise money for victims of the disaster* **4** to produce, cause to grow or develop, and look after (living things): *I've raised five children.* | *They raise horses|wheat.* —compare REAR[2] (1) **5** to mention or introduce (a subject) for consideration: *There's an important point I want to raise.* | *to raise a question|issue* **6 a** to make (a noise): *The men raised a cheer|a shout.* | *to raise the alarm* **b** to cause people to make (a noise): *Her joke raised a laugh.* **7** to cause to appear or exist: *The car raised a cloud of dust as it rushed past.* | *His long absence raised doubts|fears about his safety.* **8** *fml* to build (something high and noticeable): *to raise a monument* **9** to bring to an end (something that controls or forbids): *to raise a siege|an embargo* **10** to bring (a dead person) back to life **11** to make a higher BID than (a player in a game of cards): *I'll raise you!* **12** to get in touch by radio with: *I can't raise Melbourne.* **13 raise a number to the power of another number** to multiply a number by itself the stated number of times: *2 raised to the power of 3* (=2^3) *is 8.* **14 raise Cain/the devil/hell/the roof** *infml* to become very angry: *Mother will raise hell if you wake the baby.* **15 raise one's eyebrows (at)** to express surprise, doubt, displeasure, or disapproval (at), (as if) by raising the two lines of hair above one's eyes: *There were a lot of raised eyebrows|a lot of eyebrows raised at the news of the minister's dismissal.* **16 raise one's hand to/against someone** to make a movement to hit someone —see RISE[1] (USAGE)

raise[2] *n AmE for* RISE[2] (4): *a salary raise*

rais·er /ˈreɪzəʳ/ *n* (*usu. in comb.*) **1** a person who raises esp. money or animals: *a fund-raiser* | *a cattle-raiser* **2** a person who causes: *A fire-raiser is someone who sets fire to buildings on purpose.* —see also CURTAIN RAISER

rai·sin /ˈreɪzən/ *n* a sweet dried GRAPE used in cakes, etc.

rai·son d'et·re /ˌreɪzɒn ˈdetrə‖-zəʊn-/ *n Fr* a reason for existing

raj /rɑːdʒ/ [*the*] (*often cap.*) the period of British rule in India before 1947: *life during|under the Raj*

ra·jah , raja /ˈrɑːdʒə/ *n* an Indian ruler —see also RANEE

Raj·neesh /rɑːdʒˈniːʃ/, **Bag·wan** /ˈbɑːgwɑːn/ (1931–1990) an Indian religious man whose ideas came from a number of Eastern religions and who became well-known for owning 93 ROLLS ROYCES and encouraging his followers to have group sex

rake[1] /reɪk/ *n* **1** a gardening tool consisting of a row of points at the end of a long handle, used for making the soil level, gathering up dead leaves, etc. —see picture at GARDEN **2** any similar tool, such as one used to draw together the money on the table during a game of chance

rake[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to gather, loosen or level with a rake: *He raked the garden paths.* | *She raked over the soil to loosen the weeds.* | *They raked up the dead leaves.* **2** [I+*adv|prep*] to search carefully by turning over a pile of things: *I'll rake about|around among my papers and see if I can find it.* **3** [T (**with**)] to examine or fire at (an area) in a continuous sweeping movement along its whole length: *The police raked the hillside with powerful binoculars but did not see the escaped prisoner.* **4 rake someone over the coals** *AmE for* haul someone over the coals (HAUL[1] (4))

rake sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] *infml* to earn as income (a lot of money): *He must be raking in at least £800 a week!* | *They're* **raking it in**!

rake sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] *infml* to find by searching: *The reporter had raked out some interesting facts.* | *I'll try and rake out something for you to wear.*

rake sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* **1** to remember and talk about (something that should be forgotten): *Don't rake up that old quarrel again.* **2** to collect together with difficulty: *Can we rake up some players for the team|enough money for the rent?*

rake[3] *n old use* a man, esp. rich and of high social class, who has led a wild life with regard to drink and women

rake[4] *n* [S] the angle of a slope: *the rake of the stage|of a ship's funnels* —**rake** *v* [I;T] : *the raked wings of an aircraft*

rake-off /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a usu. dishonest share of profits: *The taxi-driver gets a rake-off from the hotel if he takes tourists there.*

rak·ish /ˈreɪkɪʃ/ *adj* **1** wild and irresponsible, like (that of) a RAKE[3]; DISSOLUTE: *He's led a rakish life.* **2** showing a cheerful informal self-confidence; JAUNTY: *She wore her cap at a rakish angle.* (=sideways on her head) — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

Ra·leigh[1] /ˈrɑːli, ˈrɔː-/ a British company which makes bicycles

Sir Walter Raleigh



Raleigh[2]**, Sir Wal·ter** /ˈwɔːltəʳ/ (1552?–1618) an English traveller and HISTORIAN who was a favourite of Elizabeth I. He is known as the person who introduced the potato and tobacco into Britain and who put his CLOAK over a PUDDLE so that Elizabeth I could walk over it.

ral·len·tan·do /ˌrælənˈtændəʊ‖ˌrɑːlənˈtɑːndəʊ/ *n, adj, adv* **-dos** (a piece of music) getting slower

ral·ly[1] /ˈræli/ *v* **1** [I;T (**to**)] to come or bring together (again) for a shared purpose or effort: *Her supporters rallied to her defence when she was attacked by her critics.* | *The general rallied his tired soldiers and they drove the enemy back.* | *The rail workers have rallied support for the strike from other unions.* **2** [I] to return to a former good state, e.g. after illness or difficulty: *He soon rallied after the shock of his father's death.* | *Prices on the stock market rallied this afternoon after earlier falls.*

rally round *phr v* [I] *infml* (esp. of a group) to come to someone's help at a time of difficulty: *Her friends all rallied round when she was ill.*

rally[2] *n* **1** a large esp. political public meeting —compare DEMONSTRATION; see colour picture on page 950 **2** a motor race over public roads **3** (in tennis and similar games) a long struggle to gain a point, with each player hitting the ball again and again over the net **4** an act of rallying

rally[3] *v* [T (**about, on**)] *old use* to make fun of (a person) in a friendly way; TEASE: *They rallied him about|on his strange appearance.*

ram[1] /ræm/ *n* **1** an adult male sheep that can be the father of young —compare EWE **2** a BATTERING RAM **3** a machine that repeatedly drops or pushes a weight onto or into something, or that uses water pressure for lifting

ram[2] *v* **-mm-** [T] **1** to run or drive into (something) very hard: *His car rammed mine.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to force into place with heavy pressure: *I rammed down the earth round the newly planted bush.* | (fig.) *The terrorist attack rammed home the need for tighter security.* (=forced people to recognize this need) **3 ram something down someone's throat** to force an unwanted idea or plan on someone: *I hate the way he rams his political views down everyone's throat.*

RAM[1] /ˌɑːr eɪ ˈem/ *abbrev. for* ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC

RAM[2] /ræm/ Random Access Memory; a memory in a computer system, used as a temporary store for information which can be changed by the user. It can be searched in any order the user likes.

Ram·a·dan /ˈræmədæn, -dɑːn, ˌræməˈdɑːn, -ˈdæn/ *n* [U] the ninth month of the Muslim year, during which no food or drink may be taken between sunrise and sunset. The Muslim year is based on the movements of the moon, and Ramadan takes place at different times each year.

Ra·ma·krish·na /ˌrɑːməˈkrɪʃnə/ (1834–86) an Indian HINDU religious man who helped to change people's thinking by saying that all religions are of equal value because they are all different paths to God

Ram·bert Dance Com·pa·ny /ˌrɒmbeə ˈdɑːns ˌkʌmpəni‖ rɑːmˌbeər ˈdæns-/ [*the*] a BALLET company based in London and known for performing modern ballet (from Marie Rambert, dancer and teacher, who started the company in 1930)

ram·ble[1] /ˈræmbəl/ *v* [I] **1** [(ABOUT, **through**, **among**)] to go on a ramble: *They rambled through the woods.* **2** [(ON, **about**)] *usu. derog* to talk or write at great length in a disordered wandering way: *The old lady was rambling (on) about her youth.* **3** (of a plant) to grow loosely in all directions: *a rambling rose* —see also RAMBLER (2)

ramble[2] *n* a (long) walk for enjoyment, often in the country: *We went for|on a ramble through the woods.*

ram·bler /ˈræmbləʳ/ *n* **1** a person who rambles **2** a rose bush that rambles

Rambler a popular small car once made by the American Motor Company

Ramblers' As·so·ci·a·tion /ˈ·· ···ˌ··/ [*the*] a British association which supports ramblers and makes sure public footpaths are kept open

ram·bling /ˈræmblɪŋ/ *adj* **1** *usu. derog* (of speech or writing) disordered and wandering: *a long and very rambling letter* **2** (of a house, street, etc.) of irregular shape and covering a large area: *a rambling old house*

Sylvester Stallone as Rambo

Ram·bo /ˈræmbəʊ/ *n* a character in several films played by Sylvester Stallone. He is strong and violent and is always seen fighting against evil forces, esp. COMMUNISM. Though very popular, educated people do not take him seriously: *There is no need for Rambo-style politics here.*



ram·bunc·tious /ræmˈbʌŋkʃəs/ *adj humor* (of a person or behaviour) noisy, uncontrollable, and full of life; BOISTEROUS — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

ram·e·kin /ˈræmɪkɪn, ˈræmkɪn/ *n* a small container in which a quantity of food large enough for one person can be baked and served

ram·ie /ˈræmi/ *n* a plant from which a type of cloth is made: *a ramie-and-cotton blouse*

ram·i·fi·ca·tion /ˌræmɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml* **1** a branch of a system that has many parts; part of a network: *the ramifications of a business|of a railway system* **2** any of a large number of results that follow from an action or decision; IMPLICATION: *What are the ramifications of our decision to join the union?*

ram·i·fy /ˈræmɪfaɪ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) branch out in all directions; form (into) a network

ramp /ræmp/ *n* **1** an artificial slope that connects two levels: *Drive the car up the ramp.* **2** *BrE* a place in a road that is higher or lower than the main road surface, esp. a raised part built to force people to drive slowly **3** *AmE for* SLIP ROAD

ram·page[1] /ræmˈpeɪdʒ, ˈræmpeɪdʒ/ *v* [I (ABOUT, **through**)]

to rush about wildly or angrily: *The elephants rampaged through the forest.*

ram·page² /ˈræmpeɪdʒ, ræmˈpeɪdʒ/ *n* [(*the*) S] excited and violent behaviour: *Football crowds went* **on the rampage** *through the town, breaking windows and damaging cars.* —**-pageous** /ræmˈpeɪdʒəs/ *adj*

ram·pant /ˈræmpənt/ *adj* **1** (of crime, disease, wrong beliefs, etc.) widespread and impossible to control: *Sickness was rampant in the area.* | *rampant lawlessness* **2** (of a plant) growing and spreading uncontrollably **3** [after *n*] *tech* (of an animal drawn in HERALDRY) standing on the back legs with the front legs raised as if to strike: *two lions rampant* — ~**ly** *adv*

ram·part /ˈræmpɑːt‖-pɑːrt/ also **ramparts** *pl.*— *n* a wide bank of earth or a stone wall built to protect a fort or city esp. in former times

Ramp·ton /ˈræmptən/ a heavily-guarded British prison for men who have committed (COMMIT) serious crimes and are thought to be violent and dangerous

ram·rod /ˈræmrɒd‖-rɑːd/ *n* a stick for pushing the GUNPOWDER into an old-fashioned gun or for cleaning a small gun: *He may be 82, but the old general still has a back as* **straight/stiff as a ramrod**.

Ram·sey /ˈræmzi/, **Sir Alf** /ælf/ (1920–) an English footballer who later became a football manager and was manager of the England team when it won the World Cup in 1966

ram·shack·le /ˈræmʃækəl/ *adj* (of a building or vehicle) badly made or needing repair; falling to pieces: *a ramshackle old house*

ran /ræn/ *past tense of* RUN

ranch /rɑːntʃ‖ræntʃ/ *n* **1** (in the western US and Canada) a very large farm where sheep, cattle, or horses are bred **2** *AmE* a farm that produces the stated thing: *a fruit/chicken ranch* —see also **meanwhile, back at the ranch** (MEANWHILE) **3** RANCH HOUSE (1): *a 3-bed ranch with 2-car garage*

ranch·er /ˈrɑːntʃəʳ‖ˈræn-/ *n* a person who owns or works on a ranch: *a cattle rancher*

ranch house /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* **1** a house built on one level, usu. with a roof that does not slope much **2** a house on a ranch in which the rancher and his/her family live —see colour picture on page 161

ran·cid /ˈrænsɨd/ *adj* (of oily food or its taste or smell) not fresh; tasting or smelling unpleasant: *rancid butter* | *This smells/tastes/has gone rancid.* — ~**ity** /rænˈsɪdɨti/ *n* [U]

ran·cour *BrE* ‖ **-cor** *AmE* /ˈræŋkəʳ/ *n* [U] *fml* a feeling of bitter unforgiving hatred: *Can we not conduct these negotiations without rancour?* —**-corous** *adj* —**-corously** *adv*

rand /rænd/ *n* **rand** the standard money unit of South Africa, divided into 100 cents

R and A /ˌɑːr ənd ˈeɪ/ [*the*] ROYAL AND ANCIENT

R and B /ˌɑːr ən ˈbiː/ *n* [U] RHYTHM AND BLUES

R and D /ˌɑːr ən ˈdiː/ *n* [U] research and development; the part of esp. a business concerned with studying new ideas, planning new products, etc.: *The company has a large* **R and D budget.**

ran·dom¹ /ˈrændəm/ *adj* without any plan, aim, or pattern: *He fired a few random shots.* | *a random choice* | *a random sample of people* (=people chosen in such a way that anyone is equally likely to be chosen) — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

random² *n* **at random** in a random way; aimlessly: *The people for the experiment were chosen completely at random.*

random ac·cess mem·o·ry /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* see RAM²

R and R /ˌɑːr ənd ˈɑːʳ/ *n* [U] *AmE* rest and relaxation; a holiday given to people in the armed forces to allow them to relax after a long time of hard work or during wartime: *a week's R and R in Seoul*

rand·y /ˈrændi/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* (of a person or his/her feelings) full of sexual desire —**-iness** *n* [U]

ra·nee , rani /ˈrɑːni, rɑːˈniː/ *n* a female RAJAH or the wife of a RAJAH

rang /ræŋ/ *past tense of* RING³

range¹ /reɪndʒ/ *n* **1** [S (**of**)] the (measurable) limits within which variable amounts or qualities are included: *a country with a wide range of temperature* | *Several cars are available within this price range.* | *I'm afraid that high note is beyond my range.* | *a wide range of different options* **2** [S (**of**)] the limits within which something operates, exists, or is effective; SCOPE: *matters which lie outside the range of this inquiry* | *a medium-range weather forecast* (=covering the future, but not the distant future) **3** [S;U] the distance at which one can see or hear: *Shout as soon as she comes within range.* **4** [S (**of**);U] the distance that a gun can fire: *a hunting rifle with a range of 200 metres* | *He shot the rabbit at short/close/point-blank range.* | *He's still out of/beyond/in/within range (of my gun).* **5** [C] an area where shooting is practised, or where MISSILES are tested: *a rifle range* **6** [C (**of**)] a connected line of mountains, hills, etc.: *a high mountain range* **7** [*the*] (in N America) a wide stretch of grassy land where cattle feed **8** [C (**of**)] a set of different objects of the same kind, esp. for sale in a shop: *a complete range of gardening tools* **9** *AmE* a HOB (1) and OVEN combined together for use in a home kitchen: *a new electric range* **10** [C] an old-fashioned iron fireplace for cooking, built into a chimney in a kitchen —see also FREE-RANGE

range² *v* **1** [I+*prep;not in progressive forms*] to vary between limits; reach from one limit to another: *The children's ages range from 5 to 15/between 5 and 15.* | *a* **wide-ranging** *programme of reforms* **2** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **over**;T] *esp. lit* to wander freely: *We ranged (over) the hills and valleys.* | (fig.) *Our conversation ranged over many topics.* **3** [T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to put in position or order, esp. in lines or rows; arrange: *She ranged the goods neatly in the shop window.*

range find·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an instrument for finding the distance of an object when shooting or taking photographs

rang·er /ˈreɪndʒəʳ/ *n* **1** the keeper of a forest or area of country, such as a NATIONAL PARK **2** (in N America) a policeman who rides through country areas to see that the law is kept —see also LONE RANGER **3** (in the US) a COMMANDO **4** an older member of the GUIDES¹ (5), aged from 14 to 19

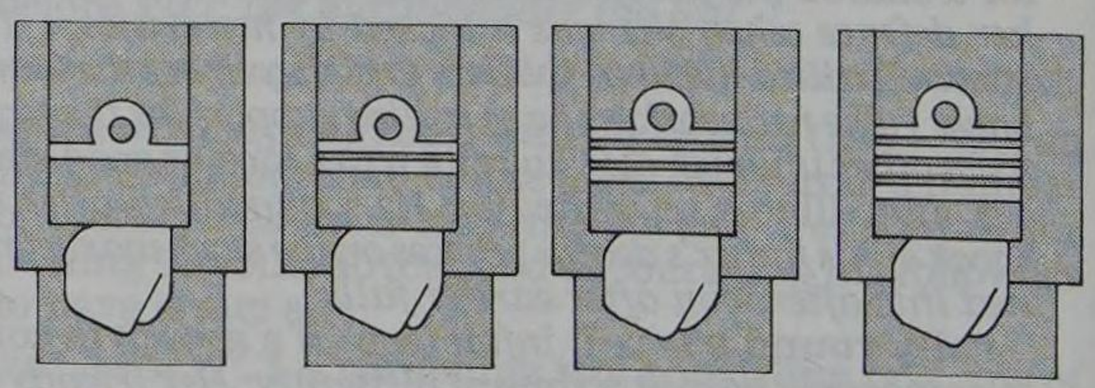
Range Rov·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n tdmk* a large expensive car made by the Rover group, which can be driven on rough ground. Range Rovers are popular with wealthy farmers and upper-class people who live in the country. Many people think that a Range Rover is a STATUS SYMBOL. — compare LAND ROVER

Ran·gers /ˈreɪndʒəz‖-ərz/ also **Glasgow Rangers** *fml*— a Scottish football team based in Glasgow. There is much competition between Rangers and Celtic, the other main Glasgow football team.

Ran·goon /ræŋˈguːn/ the former name for **Yangon**, the capital city of Myanmar (Burma)

Ran·jit Singh /ˌrændʒɪt ˈsɪŋ/, **Maharaja** (1780–1839) the former ruler of Lahore, who established the Sikh kingdom of the Punjab

rank



sub-lieutenant lieutenant commander captain

rank¹ /ræŋk/ *n* **1** [C;U] a level of relative value, ability, importance, etc., on a scale, esp. the official position someone holds in the army, navy, etc.: *to attain the rank of general* | *He's above me in rank.* | *a writer of the* **first/front/top rank** (=among the best) **2** [C;U] (high) social class: *a person of rank* | *people of all ranks* **3** [C] a line of soldiers, policemen, etc., standing side by side **4** [C (**of**)] a line of people or things: *Rank upon rank of ancient elms stretched away to the horizon.* —see also TAXI RANK **5 keep/break rank(s)** (of soldiers) to stay/fail to stay in line: *The enemy broke rank(s) and ran.* **6 close ranks** (of a group of people) to join together to face difficulties: *When their business failed, the family closed ranks and worked to pay off the debts.* **7 pull rank** *infml* to use the advantage of one's higher position, perhaps

unfairly: *When my assistant became obstinate I had to pull rank (on him) and insist that he obey.* —see also RANKS

rank[2] *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to have or regard as having a certain rank or relative position: *This result ranks as one of their most successful election performances of the last ten years.* | *a tennis player who is ranked third in the world* (=officially regarded as the third-best player) | *a high-ranking diplomat* **2** [T *often pass.*] to arrange in regular order: *The cups were ranked neatly on the shelf.* **3** [T] *AmE* (of an officer) to be of higher rank than: *A general ranks a captain.*

rank[3] *adj* **1** (of a plant) too thick and widespread: *rank grass* **2** (of smell or taste) very strong and unpleasant: *rank tobacco* **3** [A] (esp. of bad things) complete: *He's a rank beginner at the job.* | *It was rank bad luck.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

rank and file /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [*the*+*sing./pl. v*] **1** the ordinary members of an organization as opposed to the leaders: *The rank and file is/are getting discontented.* | *the rank-and-file members of a trade union* **2** the ordinary soldiers who are not officers

rank·er /ˈræŋkəʳ/ *n BrE* an officer who has risen from being an ordinary soldier

rank·ing /ˈræŋkɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *AmE* (of an officer) of highest rank: *Who's the ranking officer here?*

ran·kle /ˈræŋkəl/ *v* [I (**with**)] to continue to be remembered with bitterness and anger: *Their defeat still rankles (with them).*

Rank Or·ga·ni·sa·tion /ˈ· ···ˌ··/ [*the*] a highly successful British organization started by Joseph Rank (1888–1972) which began in the film business and moved into hotel ownership and other profitable areas

ranks /ræŋks/ *n* **1** [P (**of**)] *pomp or humor* the stated class or group: *She's joined the ranks of the* (=become) *unemployed.* | *a brilliant speech that helped to swell* (=increase) *the ranks of his supporters* **2 the/other ranks** ordinary soldiers below the rank of SERGEANT: *He was* **reduced to the ranks** *as a punishment for drinking.* | *an officer who has* **risen from the ranks**

ran·sack /ˈrænsæk/ *v* [T] **1** to search (a place) thoroughly and roughly, causing disorder: *The police ransacked the house, looking for drugs.* **2** to go through (a place) stealing and causing widespread damage: *Enemy soldiers ransacked the town.*

ran·som[1] /ˈrænsəm/ *n* **1** a sum of money paid to free a prisoner who is being held illegally: *We had to pay a large ransom.* **2 hold someone to ransom** to keep someone prisoner so as to demand payment: *The terrorists kidnapped the boy and held him to ransom.* | (fig.) *We will not allow these strikers to hold the country to ransom.*

ransom[2] *v* [T] to set (someone) free by paying a ransom —**~er** *n*

Ran·some /ˈrænsəm/, **Arthur** (1884–1967) an English writer best known for his books for children, esp. *Swallows and Amazons*, about children's sailing adventures

rant /rænt/ *v* [I (ON)] *usu. derog* to talk in a loud excited way, using grand but meaningless phrases: *The priest ranted (on) about the devil.* | *He's been* **ranting and raving** *about the way they insulted him.* —**rant** *n* [U]

Ran·tzen /ˈræntsən/, **Es·ther** /ˈestəʳ/ (1940–) a British woman who produces and introduces television programmes for the BBC programme *That's Life*. More recently, she has worked with the CHARITY Childline to help children who have been abused (ABUSE).

rap[1] /ræp/ *n* **1** [C] (the sound of) a quick light blow: *I heard a rap on the door.* | *The teacher gave me a rap over the head with her pencil.* | (fig.) *The newspaper received an official* **rap over the knuckles** *from the palace for the way it reported the story about the princess.* (=angry disapproval was expressed) **2** [S *usu. in negatives*] *infml* the least bit: *I don't care a rap for him.* **3** [U] a type of POP[3] music in which the words of a song are spoken in time with music with a steady beat. Rap is performed esp. by black people. **4 beat the rap** *AmE sl* to escape punishment **5 take the rap (for)** *sl* to receive the punishment (for someone else's crime)

rap[2] *v* **-pp-** **1** [I+*prep*;T] to strike quickly and lightly: *Someone was rapping loudly at the door/on the table.* | *She rapped her pen on the table and called for silence.* **2** [T] *BrE* (esp. in newspapers) to speak to or about with severe disapproval: *The judge rapped the police for their treatment of the witness.* **3** [T (OUT)] to say sharply and suddenly: *The officer rapped out an order.* **4** [I] *old-fash sl, esp. AmE* to talk; CHAT **5** [I] to speak the words of a song to music with a steady beat —see also RAP[1] (3)

ra·pa·cious /rəˈpeɪʃəs/ *adj fml* taking everything one can, esp. by force: *a rapacious band of robbers* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness, -city** /rəˈpæsɨti/— *n* [U]

rape[1] /reɪp/ *v* [T] (esp. of a man) to have sex with (someone, esp. a woman) against their will. Rape is illegal in most countries. In the past in Britain, a man could not be charged with raping his wife, because he had CONJUGAL RIGHTS (=the right to have sex with his wife). However, rape within marriage is now a crime.

rape[2] *n* [C;U] **1** (a case of) the crime of raping someone: *a rape victim* | *to commit rape* —see also RAPIST **2** *fml* spoiling: *the rape of our beautiful forests*

rape[3] also **canola** *AmE n* [U] a European plant with yellow flowers, grown as animal food and for the oil produced from its seeds

Raph·a·el /ˈræfeɪəl/ (1483–1520) an Italian painter and ARCHITECT whose full name was **Raffaello Santi** or **Sanzio**, one of the leading figures of the Italian RENAISSANCE

Raphael, Sally Jessy /ˈdʒɛsi/ (1943–) an American radio and television personality whose programmes are mostly of interest to women

rap·id /ˈræpɨd/ *adj* happening, moving, or doing something at great speed; fast: *The patient made a rapid recovery.* | *They asked their questions in rapid succession.* | *The school promises rapid results in language learning.* | *a rapid growth in population* —**~ly** *adv* : *the rapidly changing world of computer technology* —**~ity** /rəˈpɪdɨti/, **~ness** /ˈræpɨdnɨs/ *n* [U]

rapid eye move·ment /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] rapid movement of the eyes during sleep, thought to happen during periods when the sleeper is dreaming

rapid-fire /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* [A] **1** (of a gun) able to fire shots quickly one after the other **2** (of questions, jokes, etc.) spoken quickly one after the other

rapid re·ac·tion force /ˌ·· ·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a military force formed to act quickly in answer to a sudden threat to peace

rap·ids /ˈræpɨdz/ also **whitewater** *AmE*— *n* [P] a part of a river where the water moves very fast over rocks: *The canoe* **shot the rapids.** (=passed quickly over them)

rapid tran·sit /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *adj AmE* of a way of moving people around a city quickly, such as by UNDERGROUND[3], trains, etc.: *Los Angeles is building a subway downtown as part of its rapid transit system.*

ra·pi·er /ˈreɪpiəʳ/ *n* a long thin sharp two-edged sword —see picture at SWORD

rap·ine /ˈræpaɪn‖ˈræpɨn/ *n* [U] *lit* the carrying away of property by force; PLUNDER

rap·ist /ˈreɪpɨst/ *n* a man guilty of RAPE[2] (1)

rap·pel /ræˈpel/ *v* [I] *AmE for* ABSEIL **-rappel** *n*

rap·port /ræˈpɔːʳ/ *n* [S;U (**between, with**)] close agreement and understanding: *to have/develop a good rapport with someone*

rap·proche·ment /ræˈprɒʃmɒŋ, ræˈprəʊʃ-‖ˌræprəʊʃˈmɑːŋ/ *n* [(**between, with**)] *fml, Fr* a coming together again in friendship of former enemies: *At last there are signs of a rapprochement between our two countries.*

rap·scal·lion /ræpˈskæljən/ *n old use or humor* a worthless man or boy whom one is rather fond of

rap sheet /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE sl* a paper which has a list of someone's criminal record

rapt /ræpt/ *adj* giving one's whole mind; engrossed (ENGROSS): *We listened to her amazing story with rapt attention.* —**~ness** *n* [U]

rap·ture /ˈræptʃəʳ/ also **raptures** *pl.*— *n* [U (**at, about, over**)] *fml* great joy and delight: *She* **went into/was in raptures** *at the news.* —**turous** *adj* : *a rapturous welcome* | *rapturous applause* —**turously** *adv*

Ra·pun·zel /rəˈpʌnzəl/ a female character in a FAIRY TALE who is kept locked up at the top of a tower but who is freed when she lets down her very long hair through the window and a HANDSOME PRINCE climbs up —see picture on page 1088

rare[1] /reəʳ/ *adj* **1** extremely unusual or uncommon: *the preservation of rare species* | *It's very rare for him to be*

late. | *a rare disease* **2** (esp. of air) thin; light: *the rare air of the mountains* **3** [A] *infml* unusually good or extreme: *You gave them a rare fright.* | *We had a* **rare old** *time at the party.* —see also RARELY, RARITY — **~ness** *n* [U]

▷ USAGE Compare **rare** and **scarce.** Things that are uncommon, and perhaps valuable, are **rare**: *a* **rare** *bird/coin.* Ordinary useful things that we have not got enough of are **scarce**: *Potatoes were* **scarce** *last winter.* We can use **rare**, but not **scarce**, about time: *one of my* **rare** (=not happening often) *visits to Paris.* Note that **rarely** means "not often" while **scarcely** means "hardly, only just".◁

rare[2] *adj* (of meat, esp. STEAK) lightly cooked —compare WELL-DONE

rare·bit /ˈreəbɪt‖ˈreər-/ *n* [U] see WELSH RAREBIT

rare earth /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n tech* any of a group of rare metal substances (ELEMENTS)

rar·e·fied /ˈreərɨfaɪd/ *adj* **1** (of air in high places) light; thin, with less oxygen than usual **2** *often humor* limited to people who are special in some way; EXALTED: *He moves in very rarefied circles; his friends are all lords.*

rare·ly /ˈreəli‖ˈreərli/ *adv* not at all often: *I have rarely seen/(fml) Rarely have I seen such a beautiful sunset.* | *He rarely, if ever, goes out.* | *a rarely-shown silent movie* —compare SCARCELY

▷ USAGE The word order of a sentence beginning with **rarely** or **seldom** is like that of a question: **Rarely/Seldom** *have I heard such a strange story.* — see also NEVER (USAGE)◁

rar·ing /ˈreərɪŋ/ *adj* [F+*to-v*] *infml* very eager: *The children were raring to get out into the snow.* | *They were* **raring to go**. (=eager to start)

rar·i·ty /ˈreərɨti/ *n* **1** [U] the state or quality of being RARE[1] (1): *These stamps have great rarity value.* **2** [C] something uncommon: *People who bake their own bread have become a rarity/something of a rarity.*

ras·cal /ˈrɑːskəl‖ˈræs-/ *n* **1** a dishonest person **2** *humor* a person, esp. a child, who plays tricks or misbehaves but is regarded with fondness: *You little rascal! Where have you hidden my shoes?* — **~ly** *adj old use* : *a rascally trick*

rash[1] /ræʃ/ *adj* foolishly confident and not thinking enough of the results: *a rash decision* | *I promised in a rash moment to buy the children a pet monkey.* | *It was rather rash of you to agree to lend them your car.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

rash[2] *n* a set of red spots on the skin, caused by illness: *a heat rash* | *He* **came out in** (=became covered with) **a rash** *today.* | (fig.) *a rash of* (=a sudden large number of) *complaints/accidents*

rash·er /ˈræʃəʳ/ *n BrE* a thin piece of BACON or HAM —see picture at PIECE

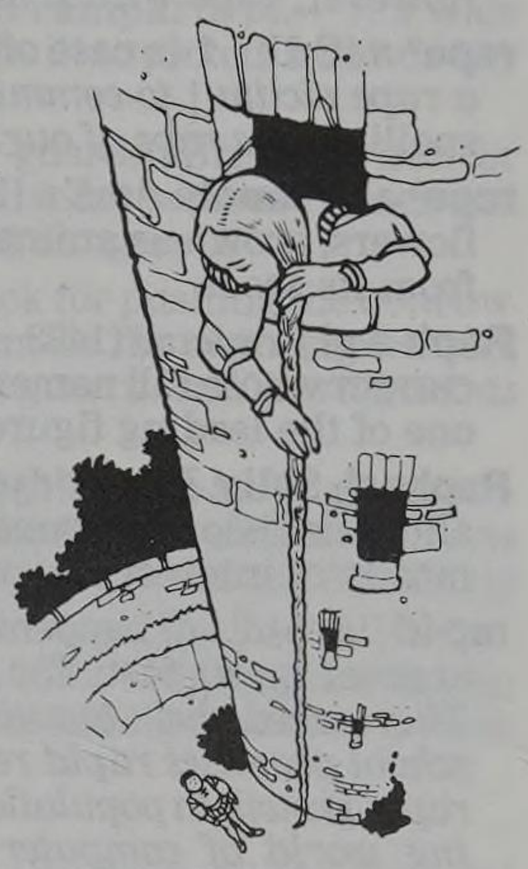
rasp[1] /rɑːsp‖ræsp/ *v* **1** [T] to rub with something rough: *The cat's tongue rasped my hand.* **2** [I (**on, upon**);T] (of a sound) to have a rough annoying effect (on): *Her loud voice rasped (on) the sick man's nerves.* | *a rasping sound/accent* — **~ingly** *adv*

rasp[2] *n* **1** [C] a metal tool for shaping wood, metal, etc.; rough FILE[1] **2** [S] a sound that might be made by this tool: *The rasp of metal on stone could be heard.*

rasp·ber·ry /ˈrɑːzbəri‖ˈræzberi/ *n* **1** a soft sweet usu. red berry (or its bush): *raspberries and cream* | *raspberry jam* —see picture at BERRY **2** *sl* a rude sound made by putting one's tongue out and blowing: *He* **blew a raspberry** *at the General.*

Ras·pu·tin /ræˈspjuːtɪn/, **Gri·go·ri E·fim·o·vich** /grɪˈgɔːri eˈfɪməvɪtʃ/ (1872–1916) a Russian holy man from Siberia who had great influence over Czarina Alexandra and, through her, over Czar Nicholas. Rasputin caused many ministers to be dismissed, while some people connected with him gained high government positions. He was finally assassinated (ASSASSINATE).

Rapunzel



ras·ta·fa·ri·an /ˌræstəˈfeəriən◂/ also **ras·ta** /ˈræstə/ — *n* (*often cap.*) a follower of a religion from Jamaica which teaches that black West Indians will return to Africa and that Haile Selassie, the former EMPEROR of Ethiopia, is to be worshipped. Rastafarians often wear their hair in DREADLOCKS. — **~ism** *n*

rastafarian



ras·ta·man /ˈræstəmæn/ *n infml* **-men** /men/ a male rastafarian

rat[1] /ræt/ *n* **1** a long-tailed animal related to but larger than the mouse: *rat poison* | *He looks* **like a drowned rat**. (=wet and cold and uncomfortable)

►CULTURAL NOTE Rats are generally feared and disliked, as they are thought to be dirty and to spread diseases. — see picture at RODENT◄

2 *infml* a worthless disloyal person: *But you promised to help us, you rat!* **3 like rats deserting a sinking ship** a phrase used when people are leaving a person or company that is having a lot of difficulties. Like the rats on an old ship, they want to leave before it finally sinks. **4 you dirty rat** *quote* a slightly changed phrase used as an insult by James Cagney in an American film —see also RAT RACE, RATS, RAT TRAP, **smell a rat** (SMELL[1])

rat[2] *v* **-tt-** [I] **1** [**(on)**] *infml* to act in a disloyal way; break a promise: *They said they'd help but they've ratted (on us).* **2** to hunt rats: *The dogs went ratting.*

rat-a-tat /ˌræt ə ˈtæt/ also **rat-a-tat-tat** /ˌræt ə tæt ˈtæt/ — *n* [S] RAT-TAT

rat·a·tou·ille /ˌrætəˈtuːi, -ˈtwiː/ *n* [U] a French dish of vegetables esp. onions, tomatoes, COURGETTES, and AUBERGINES, cooked in oil

rat·bag /ˈrætbæg/ *n BrE & AustrE derog sl* an unpleasant or worthless person

ratch·et /ˈrætʃɨt/ *n* a toothed wheel or bar provided with a piece of metal that fits between its teeth to allow movement in one direction but not the other, used in machinery

rate[1] /reɪt/ *n* **1** [**(of)**] a quantity such as value, cost, or speed, measured by its relation to some other amount: *The* **birth rate** *is the number of births compared to the size of the population.* | *a fall in the rate of inflation* | *We drove at a steady rate.* | *The drug has a high success rate in curing the disease.* **2** a charge or payment fixed according to a standard scale: *The big banks have put up interest rates for borrowers to 15%.* | *They're demanding higher rates of pay.* | *What's the* **going rate** (=the usual or average rate,e.g.of pay) *for computer programmers?* | *an hourly rate of £10* (=a payment or charge of £10 for each hour) —see also BANK RATE **3** [*usu. pl.*] a local tax formerly paid in Britain by owners of buildings, for locally provided services. It was replaced by the COMMUNITY CHARGE —see also RATE-CAP **4 at this/that rate** if events continue in the same way as now/then: *At this rate we won't be able to afford a holiday.* **5** *BrE* **at a rate of knots** very fast: *He's getting through the ironing at a rate of knots.* **6 -rate** of the stated level of quality: *a first-rate* (=very good) *performer* | *a very second-rate team* —see also **at any rate** (ANY[1])

rate[2] *v* **1** [T] [+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to have the stated opinion about; value: *The company seem to rate her very highly.* | *She is generally rated as one of the best modern poets.* **2** [T] to deserve: *an unimportant news story that didn't rate a mention on the national news* **3** *AmE* to be thought very good, valuable, etc.: *George liked the film but didn't think it rated.* **4** [T *usu. pass.*] *BrE* to fix a RATE[1] (3) on (a building): *a house rated at £500* **5** [T] to give a letter to (a film) showing who may see it: *The film has been rated PG.*

rate[3] *v* [I;T] *old use* to speak angrily (to); BERATE

rate·a·ble val·ue, ratable value /ˌreɪtəbəl ˈvæljuː/ also **RV** *abbrev.* — *n BrE* a value formerly given to a building for the purpose of calculating the RATE[1] (3) to be charged: *What's the rateable value of this shop?*

rate-cap /ˈ· ·/ *v* **-pp-** [T] *BrE* (of a central government) to

limit the amount of RATE[1] (3) that could be charged by (a local council) —**capping** *n* [U]

rate of ex·change /ˌ· · ·ˈ·/ *n* the EXCHANGE RATE

rate of re·turn /ˌ· · ·ˈ·/ *n* a company's profit for a year expressed as a PERCENTAGE of the capital employed during the year

rate·pay·er /ˈreɪtpeɪəʳ/ *n BrE* a person who pays for locally provided services, formerly by paying a RATE[1] (3) and after that by paying the COMMUNITY CHARGE: *The ratepayers always have to pay for the council's mistakes.*

rate sup·port grant /ˌ· ·ˈ· ˌ·/ *n BrE* money paid by the government to a LOCAL AUTHORITY which forms part of the money that the local authority can spend

ra·ther /ˈrɑːðəʳ‖ˈræðər/ *predeterminer, adv* **1** to some degree; QUITE (2): *It's rather cold today.* | *a rather cold day* | *rather a cold day* | *rather cold weather* | *She's driving rather fast.* | *These shoes are rather too big.* | *I'm feeling rather better.* | *It's rather like a potato.* | *She's getting rather fat.* | *It's rather a pity.* | *He earns rather a lot of money.* | *It rather surprised me.* | *I rather like him.* | *I rather stupidly agreed to do it.* (=I agreed to do it, and this was rather stupid) —see MORE (USAGE) **2** (often with **would** and sometimes with **had**) more willingly: *I'd rather play tennis than swim.* | *"Have a drink?" "No thanks, I'd rather not."* | *Rather than cause trouble, he left.* **3** more exactly; more truly: *He came home very late last night, or rather very early this morning.* | *The job will take months rather than weeks.* **4** to a greater degree or with better reasons: *The parents should be blamed rather than the children.* | *It was what he meant rather than what he said that annoyed me.* | *The decision was taken for political rather than military reasons.* **5** *infml, esp. BrE* (used as an answer) yes, certainly: *"Would you like a swim?" "Rather!"*

▷USAGE Compare **fairly** and **rather. Fairly** is often used for qualities that are neither good nor bad: *The weather was* **fairly** *cold* (=cold, but not very cold) | *I was driving* **fairly** *fast* (=fast, but not very fast). **Rather** is stronger than **fairly,** and often suggests that a quality is bad or unsuitable: *It's* **rather** *cold* (=colder than I would like) | *I was driving* **rather** *fast* (=too fast for the conditions on the road). But British speakers may use **rather** about things they like very much: *I was* **rather** *pleased when I won the prize.* The use of **rather** in senses 1 and 5 above is rare in American English, and sounds typically British to most Americans. They would use **fairly, somewhat**, or *infml* **pretty** instead for sense 1, and a simple answer such as "yes" for sense 5. —see also FAIRLY (USAGE)◁

Rather, Dan (1931–) an American reader of the news for CBS television

rat·i·fy /ˈrætɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to approve (a written agreement) and make it official by signing it: *The heads of the two governments met to ratify the treaty.* —**fication** /ˌrætɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

rat·ing /ˈreɪtɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] the position that someone or something has on a scale of values or amounts: *The President has a favourable rating in the opinion polls.* **2** [C;U] the value of a building for local tax (RATES[1] (3)): *The rating officer came to look at the farm.* **3** [C] the class in which a ship or machine is placed according to its size: *a ship with a rating of 500,000 tons* **4** [C] a sailor in the British navy who is not an officer **5** [*the* +P] the number of people who watch or listen to a television or radio programme: *This show has done badly in the ratings.* —see also NIELSEN RATINGS **6** [C] the system of giving a letter to a film, showing who may see it: *The film has been given an X rating.*

ra·ti·o /ˈreɪʃiəʊ‖ˈreɪʃəʊ/ *n* **-os** [**(of, to)**] a figure showing the number of times one quantity contains another, used to show the relationship between two amounts: *The ratio of 10 to 5 is 2 to 1.* | *The ratio of nursing staff to doctors is 2:1.* —compare PROPORTION (2)

ra·ti·o·ci·na·tion /ˌrætiɒsɨˈneɪʃən‖ˌræʃiɑːsɨ-, ˌræti-əʊsɨ-/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* exact and careful thinking

ra·tion[1] /ˈræʃən‖ˈræ-, ˈreɪ-/ *n* [**(of)**] a share of food, petrol, etc., allowed to one person for a period, esp. during a war or at a time of short supply: *the weekly meat ration* | *The soldiers were given their rations (of food).* | (fig.) *We've had our ration* (=lots) *of bad luck this year.* —see also IRON RATIONS

ration[2] *v* [T] **1** [**(to)**] to limit (someone) to a fixed ration: *We were rationed to two eggs a week.* **2** to limit and control (supplies). In Britain many people remember the period during and after the Second World War when many goods were rationed, esp. food, clothes and petrol. —see also SECOND WORLD WAR

ration sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to give out (supplies) as rations: *He rationed out the water to the sailors.*

ra·tion·al /ˈræʃənəl/ *adj* **1** (of a person) having the ability to think, understand, and make decisions; having reason **2** (of ideas and behaviour) sensible; based on or according to reason: *a rational explanation|decision* —opposite **irrational** — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ity** /ˌræʃəˈnælɨti/ *n* [U]

ra·tio·nale /ˌræʃəˈnɑːl‖-ˈnæl/ *n* [C;U] *fml* the reasons and principles on which a system or practice is based

ra·tion·al·ist /ˈræʃənəlɨst/ *adj, n* (typical of) someone who bases their opinions and actions on reason, rather than on feelings or on religious belief —**ism** *n* [U] — ~**ic** /ˌræʃənəˈlɪstɪk◂/ *adj*

ra·tion·al·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˈræʃənəlaɪz/ *v* [I;T] **1 a** to explain (something) in a rational way **b** to find a reasonable but perhaps untrue explanation for (one's own behaviour or opinions): *He rationalized his dislike of authority.* **2** *esp. BrE* to make (a method or system) more modern and effective and less wasteful: *We're rationalizing the organization of the company to make it more efficient.* —**ization** /ˌræʃənəlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* [C;U]

ration book /ˈ·· ·/ *n BrE* a book of stamps representing necessary articles such as food, clothes, petrol etc. given out by the government during the Second World War and for a time afterwards in order to share out these limited articles fairly. The number of stamps in the book showed the amount of a particular thing that people were allowed to buy.

Rat·ners /ˈrætnəz ‖ -ərz/ one of a group of shops in Britain known esp. for selling a range of inexpensive jewellery

rat race /ˈ· ·/ [*the*] *infml derog* the endless competition to succeed, esp. in business, in spite of the pressures of modern city life: *I moved to the country to get out of the rat race.*

rats /ræts/ *interj infml* (used to express annoyance or slight anger)

rat·tan /rəˈtæn/ *n* [U] a plant from which WICKER furniture is made: *a rattan chair*

rat-tat /ˌræt ˈtæt/ also **rat-a-tat**– *n* [S] a sound of knocking, esp. on a door: *I heard a loud rat-tat at the door.*

Rat·ti·gan /ˈrætɨgən/, **Sir Ter·ence** /ˈterəns/ (1911–77) an English writer of plays, best known for *The Winslow Boy* and *Separate Tables* .

rat·tle[1] /ˈrætl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) make a number of quick sharp noises like small hard objects hitting each other repeatedly: *The windows rattled in the wind.* | *The beggar rattled the coins in his tin.* **2** [I+*adv|prep*] to move quickly while making these noises: *The cart rattled along the stony road.* **3** [T] *BrE infml* to make anxious and cause to lose confidence; UNNERVE: *She was badly rattled by her failure in the exam.* —see also SABRE-RATTLING

rattle sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to repeat quickly and easily from memory: *He rattled off the poem.*

rattle on *phr v* [I] *infml* to talk quickly and continuously, esp. about things of no importance

rattle through sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to perform quickly: *She rattled through her speech|her work.*

rattle[2] *n* **1** [S] a rattling noise: *the rattle of milk bottles* **2** [C] a baby's toy that rattles **3** [C] an instrument that rattles, used esp. by people watching a football match **4** [C] the hard rings in a rattlesnake's tail that make a rattling noise —see also DEATH RATTLE

Rattle, Simon (1955–) the musician who directs the playing of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

rat·tle·snake /ˈrætlsneɪk/ also **rat·tler** /ˈrætləʳ/*esp. AmE*– *n* a poisonous American snake that makes a rattling noise with its tail when it is angry

rat·tle·trap /ˈrætltræp/ *n infml* a noisy old vehicle, esp. a car

rat·tling /ˈrætlɪŋ/ *adv old-fash infml, apprec* very: *a rattling good story*

rat trap /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* a dirty old building that is in very bad condition

rat·ty /ˈræti/ *adj* **1** *BrE infml* bad-tempered; IRRITABLE **2**

AmE infml untidy and in bad condition; SHABBY: *a ratty old coat* **3** like or full of rats

Ratty a character in *The Wind in the Willows*, a children's story by Kenneth Grahame. He is a water rat, known esp. for his enjoyment of "messing about in boats" (=spending time lazily in boats).

rau·cous /ˈrɔːkəs/ *adj* (of voices) rough and unpleasant: *raucous shouts | the raucous behaviour of drunken teenagers* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

raunch·y /ˈrɔːntʃi/ *adj infml* suggesting thoughts of sex; sexy: *a raunchy dance* –**-ily** *adv* –**-iness** *n* [U]

rav·age /ˈrævɪdʒ/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to ruin and destroy; DEVASTATE: *crops ravaged by storms | The whole area was ravaged by forest fires.*

rav·ag·es /ˈrævɪdʒɪz/ *n* [*the*+P+**of**] damage caused (as if) by ravaging; destroying effects: *the ravages of fire|war|inflation*

rave[1] /reɪv/ *v* [I (**about, against, at**)] to talk wildly as if mad: *He raved all night in his fever. | Father's raving at|against the government again.* –see also RAVING

rave about sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to speak about with extreme praise or admiration: *Everyone was raving about the new singer.*

rave[2] *adj* [A] *infml* full of very eager praise, esp. in a newspaper: *His new play has been getting* **rave notices/reviews** *in the papers.*

rave[3] *n* (in Britain) a very large dance for young people which may last all night. Raves take place in large empty buildings, sometimes without the owner's permission, and are associated in people's minds with HOUSE MUSIC and drugs such as ECSTASY. The police often try to prevent raves –see also ACID HOUSE PARTY

rav·el /ˈrævəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I;T] **1** [(UP)] to (cause to) become twisted and knotted **2** to UNRAVEL

Ra·vel /ræˈvel/, **Mau·rice** /mɒˈriːs‖mɔː-/ (1875–1937) a French COMPOSER, known esp. for his *Boléro*

ra·ven /ˈreɪvən/ *n* a large shiny black bird with a black beak which makes a deep unmusical sound (CROAK). Some ravens live outside the Tower of London and it is said that something terrible will happen to England if they leave. A well-known poem by Edgar Allan Poe called *The Raven* features a raven who repeats the word "nevermore".

raven-haired /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj lit* with shiny black hair

rav·e·ning /ˈrævənɪŋ/ *adj* [A] *esp. lit* fierce and dangerous because of hunger: *ravening tigers*

rav·e·nous /ˈrævənəs/ *adj* very hungry: *a ravenous appetite | Have a sandwich; you must be ravenous!* – ~**ly** *adv*

rav·er /ˈreɪvəʳ/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a person who leads an exciting life of social and sexual freedom

rave-up /ˈ· ·/ *n infml, esp. BrE* a wild exciting party

ra·vine /rəˈviːn/ *n* a deep narrow valley with steep sides – see VALLEY (USAGE)

rav·ing /ˈreɪvɪŋ/ *adj, adv infml* **1** talking or behaving wildly: *a raving lunatic | He's (stark) raving mad.* **2** [A] very great; attracting great admiration: *a raving beauty* (=a very beautiful woman) | *The concert was not a raving success.*

rav·ings /ˈreɪvɪŋz/ *n* [P] wild uncontrolled talk: *the ravings of a madman*

rav·i·o·li /ˌrævɪˈəʊli/ *n* [U] Italian PASTA (=food made from a flour and water mixture) in the form of small cases filled with meat, cooked in boiling water

rav·ish /ˈrævɪʃ/ *v* [T] *esp. lit* **1** [*often pass.*] to fill with delight: *I was ravished by her beauty.* **2** to seize or rob with violence **3** to RAPE – ~**ment** *n* [U]

rav·ish·ing /ˈrævɪʃɪŋ/ *adj* very beautiful; causing great delight: *a ravishing sight|blonde* – ~**ly** *adv* : *ravishingly beautiful*

raw[1] /rɔː/ *adj* **1** (of food) not cooked: *raw vegetables* **2** in the natural state; not yet treated for use: *raw sugar|cotton|sewage* **3** (of a person) not yet trained; not experienced: *a raw recruit who has just joined the army* **4** (of a part of the skin) painful; sore: *hands raw with cold* **5** (of weather) cold and wet: *a raw winter day* – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

raw[2] *n* **in the raw: a** in an original natural state, without civilization: *life in the raw* **b** *infml* without clothes

Rawal·pin·di /ˌrɔːlˈpɪndi‖ˌrɑːwəl-/ a city in NE Pakistan which was formerly the capital of Pakistan

raw-boned /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* having large bones that show under the skin

raw deal /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n infml* a case of unfair or cruel treatment: *The employees who were sacked got (rather) a raw deal*

raw·hide /ˈrɔːhaɪd/ *n* [U] natural untreated cow's leather: *a rawhide belt*

Rawl·plug /ˈrɔːlplʌg/ *n tdmk* a special piece of material put into a hole in a wall before a screw is put in to make the screw stay firmly in place

raw ma·te·ri·als /ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *n* [P] things such as minerals, metals, wood, oil, or skins which are the starting point for many manufacturing (MANUFACTURE[1]) processes: *Coal and oil are important raw materials for the manufacture of plastics.*

ray[1] /reɪ/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a narrow beam of light, esp. one of a group going out from the same centre: *a ray of light | the sun's rays* | (fig.) *Her visit brought a* **ray of sunshine** *into the old man's life.* **2** a beam of heat, electricity, or some other form of ENERGY (3): *a gun that fires invisible rays* –see also COSMIC RAY, X-RAY **3** a very small bit (of hope or comfort): *There isn't a ray of hope left for us.*

ray[2] *n* a large flat sea fish with a long pointed tail

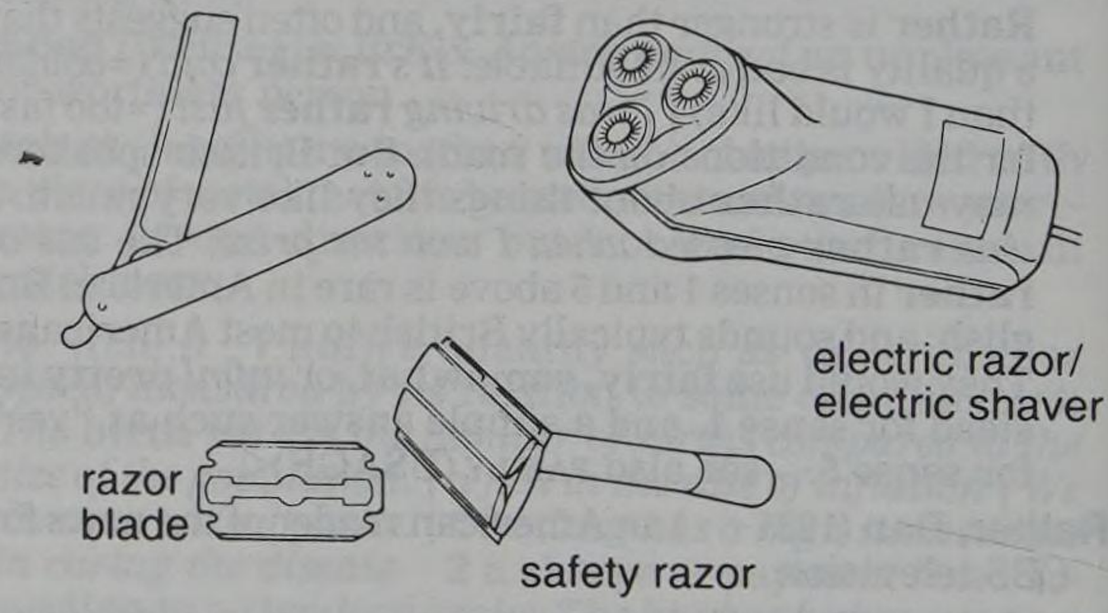
Ray, Sat·ya·jit /ˈsætjədʒɪt/ (1921–92) an Indian film director known for films such as *Pather Panchali* and *The Chess Players*

Ray·ner /ˈreɪnəʳ/, **Claire** /kleəʳ/ (1931–) a well known English AGONY AUNT

ray·on /ˈreɪɒn‖-ɑːn/ *n* [U] a smooth silk-like material made from plant substances, often used to make clothes

raze /reɪz/ *v* [T] *fml* to destroy (buildings, towns, etc.) completely, so that no part is left standing: *The air attack* **razed the city to the ground**.

razors



ra·zor /ˈreɪzəʳ/ *n* a sharp instrument for removing hair, esp. the hair that grows on a man's face: *I shave with an electric razor.* | (fig.) *his* **razor-sharp** (=very fine and quick) *wit* –compare SHAVER; see also CUTTHROAT[1] (2), SAFETY RAZOR

razor blade /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a flat blade with a very sharp cutting edge, used in a SAFETY RAZOR –see picture at RAZOR

razor edge /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ also **razor's edge**– *n* [S] a difficult or dangerous position between two opposite states: *Edward nearly died after the accident – his life was on a razor edge for days.*

raz·zle /ˈræzəl/ *n infml, esp. BrE* **on the razzle** having a wild enjoyable time: *After they won the match they all went on the razzle.*

razzle-daz·zle /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] noisy, colourful activity which is meant to excite and impress: *That advertising campaign uses a lot of razzle-dazzle to hide the fact that the product isn't very good.*

razz·ma·tazz /ˌræzməˈtæz/ *n* [U] *infml* noisy showy activity intended to attract attention and admiration: *all the razzmatazz of the presidential election campaign*

RBI /ˌɑː biː ˈaɪ‖ˌɑːr-/ *n* (in BASEBALL) runs batted in; the total number of runs (RUN[2] (10)) which a player helps to make by hitting the ball: *He had six R.B.I.'s this game alone and sixty-two for the season so far.*

RC /ˌɑː ˈsiː‖ˌɑːr-/ *abbrev. for:* ROMAN CATHOLIC

RCMP /ˌɑː siː em ˈpiː‖ˌɑːr-/ Royal Canadian Mounted Police; a police force of Canada –see also MOUNTIE

Rd *written abbrev. for:* ROAD

RD /ˌɑː ˈdiː‖ˌɑːr-/ *n AmE* rural delivery; a postal service which delivers the post in country areas; the letters R.D. are part of someone's address

re[1] /reɪ/ *n* [S;U] the second note in the SOL-FA musical SCALE[1] (5)

re[2] /riː/ *prep* (esp. in business letters) on the subject of; with regard to: *re your inquiry of the 19th October*

RE /ˌɑːr ˈiː/ *abbrev. for:* RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

re- see WORD FORMATION

're /ər/ *short for:* are: *We're ready but they're not.* (compare *They're not ready but we are* (not *we're*))

reach[1] /riːtʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to arrive at or come as far as; get to, often after much time or effort: *After several changes of plane, we finally reached London on Tuesday morning.* | *Have you reached the end of the book yet?* | *The news only reached me yesterday.* | *She's reached the age of 50.* | *Our sales to Germany have reached record levels.* | *The two sides failed to reach (an) agreement after several hours of discussion.* **2** [I+*adv/prep*] to stretch out a hand or arm for some purpose: *He reached across the table and picked up the book.* | *The shopkeeper reached for a packet of tea.* **3** [I;T *not in progressive forms*] to be able to touch (something) by stretching out a hand or arm: *Are you tall enough to reach that apple on the tree?* | (fig.) *We could see nothing but houses* **as far as the eye could reach**. (=to the horizon) **4** [I+*adv/prep*;T *not in progressive forms*] (of a thing or place) to be big enough to touch; stretch out as far as: *The ladder won't quite reach (as far as) the window.* | *The garden reaches down to the lake.* **5** [T **(for)**] to get or give by stretching out a hand or arm: *I reached down the child's cap from the hook.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *Could you reach me that book from the top shelf?* **6** [T] to get a message to; get in touch with; CONTACT: *You can usually reach him on this phone number ...* **7 reach for the stars** to try to gain something far away and seemingly impossible to reach

reach sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T **(for)**] to stretch out (a hand or arm): *The monkey reached out a hand for the banana.*

reach[2] *n* **1** [U **(of)**] **a** the distance that one can touch by stretching: *The bottle was within/out of (his) reach.* (=he could/could not reach it) **b** the distance that can be (easily) travelled: *We live within easy reach of the shops.* **c** the limit to which something can have effect or influence: *It's beyond the reach of my imagination.* **2** [S] the length of one's arm: *a boxer with a long reach* **3** [C] a straight stretch of water between two bends in a river: *the upper reaches of the river* (=the part of the river farthest from the sea)

reach-me-down /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] *BrE for* HAND-ME-DOWN

re·act /riˈækt/ *v* [I] **1** [**(to, against)**] to act or behave in a particular way in answer or opposition: *The government has reacted to the outbreak of violence by sending army patrols to police the area.* | *How did he react to your suggestion?* | *She reacted angrily to these accusations.* | *Children tend to react against their parents by going against their wishes.* | *The patient reacted badly to the drug.* (=was made ill by it) **2** [**(with, on)**] *tech* (of a substance) to change when mixed with another: *An acid can react with a base to form a salt.* —see also REAGENT, RESPOND (USAGE)

re·ac·tion /riˈækʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U **(to)**] (a case or way of) reacting; RESPONSE: *What was your reaction to the news?* (=what did you think about it?) | *The news of the planned closure of the factory provoked a hostile reaction from the union.* **2** [C;U **(on, to, against)**] *tech* (in science) **a** (a) force exercised by a body in reply to another force, which is of equal strength and acts in the opposite direction **b** (a) change caused in a chemical substance by the action of another **3** [S;U **(from, against)**] **a** (a) change back to a former condition: *The popularity of these old-fashioned views reflects a reaction against the permissiveness of the 1960s.* **b** sudden weakness, tiredness, low spirits, etc., coming after unusual activity, esp. of the mind: *She may suffer a reaction when the drug wears off.* **4** [U] *derog* the quality of being reactionary: *The revolution was defeated by the forces of reaction.* —see also CHAIN REACTION

re·ac·tion·a·ry /riˈækʃənəri‖-ʃəneri/ *n, adj derog* (a person) strongly opposed to social or political change: *a diehard reactionary* | *reactionary views* —compare LIBERAL[1], RADICAL[1] (2)

re·ac·tiv·ate /riˈæktɪveɪt/ *v* [I;T] to make or become active again: *We reactivated the machine.* | *The chemicals reactivate when heated.*

re·ac·tive /riˈæktɪv/ *adj tech* (of a chemical substance) that REACTS (2) —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n*

re·ac·tor /riˈæktəʳ/ *n* **1** a NUCLEAR REACTOR **2** a container for a chemical reaction

read[1] /riːd/ *v* **read** /red/ **1** [I;T] to look at and understand (something printed or written): *The little boy can read quite well now.* | *He reads well for a six-year-old.* | *to read a book/music/a map* | *Read the instructions before you start the machine.* | *I can read French but I can't speak it.* **2** [I;T] to learn (the stated information) from print or writing: *I read about the murder/read an account of the murder in the paper.* [+*that*] *I read that the new director is Spanish.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*; L+*n*; *not in progressive forms*] (of written words) to have a particular form or produce a particular effect when read: *The name should read "Benson", not "Fenton".* | *Her letter reads as follows ...* | *I rewrote the last paragraph because it didn't read very well.* **4** [I;T **(to)**] to say (printed or written words) to others: *The teacher read the poem aloud to the class.* | *She read (a story) to the children.* [+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] *She read the children a story.* —compare READ **out** **5** [T] (of a measuring instrument) to show: *The thermometer reads 33 degrees.* **6** [T] *BrE* to study (a subject) at university: *Helen's reading history/law at Oxford.* —compare READ **for** **7** [T **(as)**] **a** to understand the meaning or nature of (a statement, event, experience, person, etc.) in a particular way; INTERPRET: *His speech about unity showed that he had accurately read the mood of the conference.* | *I read her reply as a refusal.* | *How do you read the latest trade figures?* | *I can read your thoughts from the look on your face.* | *It's hard to read him when he's in one of his moods.* **b** to tell what will happen in the future from (various visible objects): *Have you ever had your palm read?* | *I know a woman who reads tea leaves.* | *His wife reads tarot cards.* **8** [T **(as, for)** *usu. imperative*] *fml* to understand (the stated printed or written words) to be a mistake for: *For £50 please read £15.* | *Please read £50 as £15.* **9** [T] to obtain and use (information) from a computer STORAGE system: *The disk drive reads data from the disk into the computer's memory.* **10 read all about it!** (a phrase typically said by people selling newspapers on the street): *Big fire in city warehouse – read all about it!* **11 read between the lines** to find hidden meanings: *If you read between the lines, this letter is really a request for money.* **12 read the tea leaves** to look at the pattern of tea leaves left in the bottom of the cup in order to know the future **13 take something as read** *esp. BrE* to accept something as true or right without the need to hear it, talk about it, etc.: *We didn't have time to hear the secretary's report, so we took it as read.* | *We can take it as read that the newspapers will support our opponents.* **14 -read** /red/**a** (of a person) having a stated amount of knowledge gained from books: *a well-read woman* | *He's widely-read.* **b** (of a book, newspaper, etc.) read by a stated number of people: *a little-read novel* —see also **read the riot act** (RIOT ACT)

read for sthg. *phr v* [T] *esp. BrE* to study in order to gain (esp. a university degree): *She's reading for a degree in physics.* —compare READ[1] (6)

read sthg. **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to believe (something) to be meant though not expressed by (something else): *Don't read more into her letter than she intended.* | *It was only a casual remark – don't read too much into it.*

read sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to read aloud for others to hear: *The announcer read out the football results.* —compare READ[1] (4)

read sthg. ↔ **over/through** *phr v* [T] to read completely, from beginning to end —**read-through** /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [S]

read up *phr v* [I **(on)**;T (=**read** sthg. ↔ **up**)] *infml* to study (a subject) thoroughly; find out about by reading: *I need to read up (on) the tax laws.*

read[2] *n* [S] **1** an act or period of reading: *Can I have a read of your paper?* **2** something of the stated kind to be read: *It's not great literature but it's a good read.*

rea·da·ble /ˈriːdəbəl/ *adj* **1** *apprec* interesting or enjoyable to read **2** LEGIBLE —opposite **unreadable**; see also MACHINE-READABLE —**-bility** /ˌriːdəˈbɪlɪti/ *n* [U]

re·ad·dress /ˌriːəˈdres/ *BrE* ‖ **forward** *AmE*– *v* [T **(to)**] to write a different address on (a letter that has been delivered wrongly to one's own address); REDIRECT: *I asked*

them to readdress my letters (to my new house).

read·er /ˈriːdəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who reads a stated thing or in a stated way: *Are you a fast reader? | My brother's a great reader|an avid reader.* (=he reads a lot) | (in a newspaper) *We have received many letters on this subject from our readers.* **2** a person who reads books to put mistakes right before printing, or to decide whether to print (PUBLISH) them **3** [**(in)**] (*often cap.*) a British university teacher just below the rank of PROFESSOR: *She's a reader in French.* **4** a schoolbook for beginners, usu. containing short passages or stories for reading **5** a book containing a collection of writings by one writer, or about a particular subject

Reader, The a weekly US newspaper printed in Chicago. It is known esp. for news about entertainment. —see also extra information on page 896

Reader's Di·gest /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a popular magazine for the general reader, printed in many different languages and containing a variety of information and stories about many different subjects. It is delivered to readers by post. The American and British magazines of this name are produced separately.

read·er·ship /ˈriːdəʃɪp‖-ər-/ *n* **1** [S] the particular number or type of people who read a newspaper or magazine: *The paper has a readership of 80,000|a very well-educated readership.* **2** [C **(in)**] the position of a READER (3)

read·ies /ˈrediːz/ *n* [P] *BrE* READY³ (1)

read·i·ly /ˈredɪ̈li/ *adv* **1** quickly and willingly: *He readily agreed to their suggestion.* **2** with no difficulty: *This type of plug is readily available.*

read·i·ness /ˈredɪn̈s/ *n fml* **1** [**(in)** U **(for)**] the state of being ready or prepared: *The defences are kept in readiness for an enemy attack.* **2** [S;U] (a) willingness: [+*to-v*] *She shows (a) great readiness to learn.* **3** [S;U+**of**] (a) quickness and ability to do something easily: *readiness of understanding* —see also READY¹ (3)

read·ing¹ /ˈriːdɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] the act or practice of reading: *Children learn reading and writing at school.* **2** [C **(of)**] an opinion about the meaning of (a statement, set of events, etc.); INTERPRETATION: *My reading of the law is that we needn't pay. | What's your reading of the latest trade figures?* **3** [C] a figure shown by a measuring instrument: *What are the temperature readings for the week?* **4** [U] something of the stated type to be read: *Books like this are unsuitable|difficult reading for children. | The report makes interesting reading.* (=is interesting to read) | *reading matter* (=books, newspapers, etc.) **5** [C] a gathering of people at which literature is read aloud: *a poetry reading* **6** [C] any of the official occasions in the British Parliament or US Congress on which a BILL (=a suggested new law) is read aloud and considered before it can actually become law: *the third reading of the Industrial Relations Bill*

reading² *adj* [A] for reading: *the reading room at the library | a reading lamp*

Read·ing /ˈredɪŋ/ a university town on the River Thames in Berkshire, S England, where the local government for that COUNTY is based

re·ad·just /ˌriːəˈdʒʌst/ *v* [I;T **(to)**] to get or put back into the proper state or position: *Readjust the driving mirror. | It's hard to readjust (oneself) to school life after the holidays.* —**~ment** *n* [C;U] : *a period of readjustment | The mechanic made a few minor readjustments.*

read-on·ly mem·o·ry /ˌ· ·· ˈ···/ see ROM

read·out /ˈriːd-aʊt/ *n* a showing, e.g. in printed form or on a SCREEN, of information that has been processed by a computer: *Using this program, you can get a readout of all the areas where sales have increased.* —see also PRINTOUT

read·y¹ /ˈredi/ *adj* **1** [F **(for)**] prepared and fit (for use or action): *Is breakfast ready? | Come on — aren't you ready yet? | Is everything ready for the party?* [+*to-v*] *I'm not ready to go yet. | These apples are ready to eat* (=ready to be eaten) | *We'd better get ready to leave.* | (*fml*) *They* **made ready** (=prepared) *for the attack.* **2** [F] (of a person) willing to do or give something: [+**with**] *She's always ready with advice|with an excuse.* [+*to-v*] *You're too ready to criticize.* **3** [A] *fml, usu. apprec* (of the powers of the mind) quick: *a man of ready wit | a ready understanding of the problem* **4** [F+*to-v*] likely to do something: *I felt ready to cry with frustration. | We marched until we were ready to drop.* —see also READILY, READINESS

ready² *adv* (used before a past participle) in advance; already: *You can buy the bread ready cut. | a ready-cooked dinner*

ready³ *n* [*the*] **1** also **readies** *pl.*— *BrE infml for* READY MONEY: *I'm a bit short of the ready this week.* **2 at|to the ready** in|to the state of being ready: *Have your guns at the ready men!*

ready⁴ *interj BrE* **ready, steady, go!** also **on your mark(s), get set, go!** *esp. AmE* (used when telling people to begin a race)

ready⁵ *v* [T] *fml* to make ready; prepare

ready-made /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** (esp. of clothes) not made specially for the buyer; able to be worn at once: *a ready-made suit* | (fig.) *His second wife had three children already, so when he married her he had a ready-made family.* **2** useful and suitable for a purpose; convenient: *The rain gave us a ready-made excuse for not going out.* **3** *derog* not original: *ready-made opinions*

ready meal /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a prepared meal bought in a shop and which only needs to be heated before eating

ready-mix¹ /ˈ·· ·/ *adj* (of food powder) ready to cook after adding water or milk: *a ready-mix cake*

ready-mix² *n tdmk* CONCRETE which has been mixed before or during delivery to a place where building is being done

ready mon·ey /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **ready cash** /ˌ·· ˈ·/— *n* [U] money that can be paid at once in actual coins and notes, and not owed

ready-to-wear /ˌ·· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of clothes) ready-made: *a ready-to-wear suit*

re·af·firm /ˌriːəˈfɜːm‖-ɜːrm/ *v* [T] to declare again, or in answer to a question or doubt: *The conference overwhelmingly reaffirmed its commitment to nuclear disarmament.* [+*that*] *The statement reaffirmed that the government would never make concessions to terrorists.* —**~ation** /ˌriːæfəˈmeɪʃən‖-fər-/ *n* [C;U]

re·af·for·est /ˌriːəˈfɒrɪ̈st‖-ˈfɔː-, -ˈfɑː-/ *esp. BrE*‖**reforest** *esp. AmE*— *v* [T] to plant (land) again with forest trees for industrial use or to improve the environment —**~ation** /ˌriːəfɒrɪ̈ˈsteɪʃən‖-fɔː-, -fɑː-/ *n* [U]

Rea·gan¹ /ˈreɪgən/, **Nan·cy** /ˈnænsi/ (1923–) the wife of the former American president Ronald Reagan, known for her belief in the power of ASTROLOGY and her strong influence on her husband while he was president

Reagan², Ron·ald Wil·son /ˈrɒnəld ˈwɪlsən‖ˈrɑː-/ (1911–) an American Republican politician who was the 40th president of the US (1981–89). Reagan was a popular president among many Americans, partly because of his policies (POLICY) and partly because he seemed likeable. People also connect him with SDI, a programme of defence in space, and with the Iran-Contra affair (IRANGATE), though he said that he knew nothing about it. He is also known for having been a film actor before he became a politician.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan



Rea·gan·om·ics /ˌreɪgəˈnɒmɪks‖-ˈnɑː-/ *n* [P+*sing./pl.v*] the economic ideas and policies (POLICY) of the US between 1981 and 1989, when Ronald Reagan was president

re·a·gent /riːˈeɪdʒənt/ *n tech* a substance that by causing a chemical REACTION (2) in a compound shows the presence of another substance

real¹ /rɪəl/ *adj* **1** not pretended, artificial, or false; actual or true: *Is your ring real gold? | What was the real reason for your absence? | He didn't start the club purely as a business venture — he's got a real* (=sincere) *interest in jazz music. | The director got all the credit for the new product, but it was his assistant who was the real brain behind it.* (=who did the important work) | *The real* (=most important) *lesson of this tragedy is that safety regulations must be made more strict. | The money spent on education has gone up by 10%* **in real terms.** (=after taking account of general rises in price) **2** actually

existing; not imaginary: *a story of real life* **3** [A] (used to add force) complete; great: *You're a real idiot! | That cake was a real treat!* **4** [A] *apprec* (esp. of a drink or food) made in the proper old way rather than by modern artificial methods: *real mashed potatoes* **5 for real** *infml, esp. AmE* serious or seriously: *They were fighting for real. | We didn't believe their threats were for real.* – see also REALITY, REALLY – **~ness** *n* [U]

real[2] *adv infml, esp. AmE* very: *I'm real sorry!*

real ale /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a type of beer made by TRADITIONAL methods, which ferments (FERMENT[1]) in the BARREL and which is not FIZZY

real es·tate /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* [U] **1** also **real property**–*fml or law* property in the form of land and houses –compare PERSONAL PROPERTY **2** *esp. AmE* houses to be bought: *He sells real estate.*

real estate a·gent /ˈ· ·· ˌ··/ also **Realtor** *tdmk*– *n AmE for* ESTATE AGENT

re·a·lign /ˌriːəˈlaɪn/ *v* [I;T] to form into new groups, new types of organization or arrangement, etc: *The general realigned his forces to mount a fresh attack.* – **~ment** *n* [C;U] : *a realignment of political parties*

rea·lis·m /ˈrɪəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] **1** *apprec* accepting and dealing with life and its problems in a practical way, without being influenced by feelings or false ideas **2** (*often cap.*) (in art and literature, esp. following ROMANTICISM in the 19th century) the showing of things as they really are – compare CLASSICISM (1,2), ROMANTICISM –**-list** *n*

rea·lis·tic /rɪəˈlɪstɪk/ *adj apprec* **1** showing REALISM (1); sensible and reasonable: *It would be nice to have another holiday, but we've got to be realistic (about it) – we can't really afford one. | It's not really worth £1000; a more realistic estimate would be £600. | a realistic assessment of their prospects* –opposite **unrealistic** **2** (of art or literature) showing or describing things as they appear to most people: *a realistic drawing of a horse* – **~ally** /kli/ *adv* : *She drew the horse very realistically. | Realistically, it's only worth about £600.*

re·al·i·ty /riˈælɨti/ *n* **1** [U] the quality or state of being real: *She believes in the reality of God. | We thought they had come to repair the phone, but* **in reality** (=in actual fact) *they were burglars.* **2** [C;U] something or everything that is real: *Her dream of being a film star became a reality. | Many people go to the cinema as an escape from reality. | We were promised a trouble-free holiday, but the reality* (=what actually happened) *was rather different.*

rea·li·za·tion also **-sation** *BrE* /ˌrɪəlaɪˈzeɪʃən‖-lə-/ *n* **1** [S;U] (an experience of) understanding and believing; being or becoming conscious (of): *(a) full realization of his guilt* [+*that*] *the sudden realization that we had been wrong all the time* **2** [*the*+**of**] the becoming real of a hope, plan, fear, etc.: *The next year saw the realization of my hopes.* **3** [*the*+**of**] *tech* the act of selling ASSETS or of getting money for property: *the realization of the house|of £1000|of their shares*

rea·lize also **-lise** *BrE* /ˈrɪəlaɪz/ *v* [T *not usu.in progressive forms*] **1** to understand and believe (a fact); be or become conscious of: *He didn't realize his mistake|the risks he was taking.* [+(*that*)] *She spoke English so well that I never realized she was German.* [+*wh-*] *I didn't realize how late it was.* | (in making requests) *I realize you're very busy, but could I talk to you for a few minutes?* | (shows annoyance) *Do you realize you're half an hour late?* **2** to make (a hope, purpose, fear, etc.) real: *She realized her ambition of becoming an actress. | My worst fears were realized when I saw what the exam questions were.* **3** *fml* **a** to change into money by selling: *We realized all our assets.* **b** to get (money by selling): *We realized a profit (on the house).* **c** (of something sold) to bring (an amount of money): *The car realized £3000.* –**-lizable** *adj* : *realizable hopes|property*

real·ly /ˈrɪəli/ *adv* **1** in fact; actually: *Did she really say that? | I really don't|I don't really want any more coffee.| The report describes things as they really are. | He's really rather a nice boy|He's quite a nice boy, really.* **2** very (much); thoroughly: *It's really cold today. | a really cold day | I really can't stand him.* **3** (used esp. with **ought** or **should**) correctly; properly: *You ought really* (*BrE*) *| really ought* (*AmE*) *to have asked me first. | I'll let you use the phone this time, but you're not really supposed to.* **4** (shows interest, doubt, surprise, or slight displeasure): *"I collect rare coins." "Really?" | Well, really! What a stupid thing to do.*

▷ USAGE In informal American speech, **really** is used in most cases where a British speaker would use **quite**: *It was quite* (*BrE*)‖*really* (*AmE*) *nice of you. | I thought the film was quite* (*BrE*) ‖ *really* (*AmE*) *good.*◁

realm /relm/ *n* **1** (*often cap.*) *lit or law* a country ruled over by a king or queen: *the defence of the Realm* **2** [(**of**)] also **realms** *pl.*– an area of activity, study, etc.: *the realm of science | Such a thing is not* **within the realms of possibility.** (=is not possible)

re·al·pol·i·tik /reɪˈɑːlpɒlɪtiːk‖-pɑː-/ *n* [U] politics based on practical facts or possibilities rather than on moral aims, and directed towards the success and advantage of one's own country, political group, etc.

real prop·er·ty /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* [U] *fml, esp. law for* REAL ESTATE (1)

real ten·nis /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a game played by two or four people using rackets (RACKET (1)) and a ball in an indoor court of an irregular shape, divided by a net. This game was the original form of tennis.

real-time /ˈ· ·/ *adj* [A] *tech* of or being a computer's handling of a requested operation immediately and without interruption until it is finished: *a real-time interactive database* **real time** *n* [U] : *These schedule updates have to happen in real time.* –compare TIME-SHARING

Real·tor /ˈrɪəltəʳ, -tɔːʳ/ *n AmE tdmk for* ESTATE AGENT

real·ty /ˈrɪəlti/ *n* [U] *AmE for* REAL ESTATE

real world /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] the world, life, conditions, situations, etc. as they really exist, not as in someone's imagination of how they should be: *You suggest that we should abolish income tax altogether, but that's not living in the real world.*

ream[1] /riːm/ *n* **1 a** (in Britain) 480 pieces of paper **b** (in the US) 500 pieces of paper –compare QUIRE **2** [(**of**)] also **reams** *pl.*– *infml* a lot of writing: *She wrote reams of notes.*

ream[2] *v* [T] *esp. AmE* **1** to make (a hole or opening) larger **2** *infml* to treat badly, esp. by cheating

ream·er /ˈriːməʳ/ *n esp. AmE* a tool used to make a hole or opening larger

re·an·i·mate /riːˈænɨmeɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to fill with new strength or courage; bring back to life: *The new leader reanimated the political party.*

reap /riːp/ *v* [I;T] to cut and gather (a crop of grain): *The men were all out reaping. | Nowadays machines are used to reap the corn.* | (fig.) *She invested cleverly, and* **reaped a** *rich* **reward.** | (fig.) *He finally* **reaped the benefit** *of all his years of hard work.* –compare HARVEST[2] – **~er** *n* –see also GRIM REAPER

re·ap·pear /ˌriːəˈpɪəʳ/ *v* [I] to appear again after an absence – **~ance** *n* [U]

re·ap·praise /ˌriːəˈpreɪz/ *v* [T] *fml* to examine (something) again to see whether one should change one's opinion of it: *The time had come for them to reappraise their economic strategy.* –**-praisal** *n* [C;U]

rear[1] /rɪəʳ/ *n* **1** [*the*] *rather fml* the back: *a garden at the rear of the house | The engine is in the rear.* –compare FRONT[1] (1) **2** [C] *euph* the part of the body on which one sits; BUTTOCKS **3 bring up the rear** to be the last, e.g. in a line of people or a race –**rear** *adj* [A] : *a rear window | The rear light of a car* –see picture at CAR

▷ USAGE British speakers say **at the rear** for something that is behind: *a garden* **at the rear** *of the house*, and **in the rear** for the back part of something: *to walk* **in the rear** *of the procession*. American speakers generally say **in the rear** for both.◁

rear[2] *v* **1** [T (**on**)] to care for until fully grown: *She's reared a large family. | a hand-reared goat* (=fed by a human being) –compare RAISE[1] (4) **2** [I] (of a four-legged animal) to rise upright on the back legs: *The horse reared and threw me off.* –compare BUCK[2] (2) **3** [T] to lift up (a part of oneself, esp. the head), esp. so as to be noticed: *The lion reared its head.* | (fig.) *The threat of war|of a big price rise|once again has* **reared its ugly head.** (=appeared)

rear ad·mi·ral /ˌ· ˈ···◂/ *n* (*often cap.*) a rank in the navy: *Rear Admiral Jones* –see TABLE 3

Rear·don /ˈrɪədən‖ˈrɪər-/, **Ray** (1932–) a Welsh SNOOKER player who has been world snooker CHAMPION six times

rear·guard /ˈrɪəgɑːd‖ˈrɪərgɑːrd/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a formation of soldiers protecting the rear of an army —compare VANGUARD

rearguard ac·tion /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a fight by the rearguard of an army that is being driven back by a victorious enemy: (fig.) *They fought a rearguard action against political changes that were almost inevitable.*

re·arm /riːˈɑːm‖-ˈɑːrm/ *v* [I;T (**with**)] to provide (oneself or others) with weapons again, or with new weapons: *If we want to fight we must rearm.* | *They rearmed their allies with modern missiles.* —compare DISARM (2)

re·ar·ma·ment /riːˈɑːməmənt‖-ˈɑːr-/ *n* [U] the rearming of a nation —compare DISARMAMENT

rear·most /ˈrɪəməʊst‖ˈrɪər-/ *adj* [A] furthest back; last: *the rearmost carriage of the train*

re·ar·range /ˌriːəˈreɪndʒ/ *v* [T] to put into a different (and better) arrangement: *Let's rearrange the room and have the desk by the window.* —~**ment** *n* [C;U] : *various rearrangements* | *a lot of rearrangement*

rear·view mir·ror /ˌrɪəvjuː ˈmɪrəʳ‖ˌrɪər-/ *n* a mirror in a vehicle, such as a car or a bus, which lets the driver see the area behind the vehicle —see picture at CAR

rear·ward /ˈrɪəwəd‖ˈrɪərwərd/ *adj, n* [A; *the*] (in or towards) the REAR[1] (1) —**-wards, -ward** *adv*

rea·son[1] /ˈriːzən/ *n* **1** [C;U (**for**)] the cause of an event or situation; a fact, event, or statement that provides an explanation or excuse for something: *She just suddenly left without giving any reason.* | *He decided not to accept the job, but wouldn't tell us his reasons.* | *The reason for the flood was all that heavy rain.* [+*to-v*] *They have said the new product will be a success, and I see no reason to doubt it.* | *There is reason to believe she was murdered.* | *In view of her behaviour, you had* **every reason** (=good reason) *to be suspicious.* [+(*that*)] *The reason I didn't tell you was that I wanted it to be a surprise.* [+**why**] *The reason why she didn't get the job was that her English was not very good.* | (*fml*) *He escaped punishment,* **by reason of** (=because of) *his youth.* | *He thinks,* **with reason** (=rightly), *that I don't like him.* | *She decided,* **for reasons best known to herself** (=no one else knew her reasons), *to move to another job.* | *For safety reasons|For reasons of safety, the doors are kept locked.* **2** [U] the ability to think, understand, and form opinions or judgments that are based on facts: *People are different from animals because they possess the power of reason.* **3** [U] good sense: *There's a great deal of reason in his advice.* | *Their demands are|go* **beyond all reason**! (=are more than is acceptable or reasonable) | *I told him not to be so stupid, but he wouldn't* **listen to reason.** (=be persuaded by sensible advice) **4** [U] a healthy mind that is not mad: *to* **lose|regain one's reason** **5 within reason** within reasonable limits: *The bank will lend you as much as you need, within reason.* —see also **stand to reason** (STAND[1] (32))

▷ USAGE 1 Some people think a sentence such as *The* **reason** *for my absence was* **because** *I was ill* is bad English. It is better to say *The* **reason** *for my absence was* **that** *I was ill.* 2 Compare **cause** and **reason.** A **cause** is something which produces a result: *The* **cause** *of the accident was the fact that he was driving too fast.* A reason is something which explains or excuses an action: The **reason** *he was driving so fast was that he was late for an important meeting* . —see also EXCUSE[2] (USAGE)◁

reason[2] *v* **1** [I] to use one's REASON[1] (2): *the ability to reason* **2** [T+*that*; *obj*] to form an opinion based on REASON[1] (2): *We reasoned that the terrorists would not negotiate unless we made some concessions.* **3** [T+*obj*+**into/out of**] to persuade (someone) to do/not to do: *Try to reason him out of that idea|into going away quietly.* **4 Their's not to reason why, Their's but to do and die** *quote* a phrase from the poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Tennyson, used now to say that someone should not ask questions but should just do as they are told —see also CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE —~**er** *n* : *a clever reasoner*

reason with sbdy. *phr v* [T] to talk or argue with (someone) in order to persuade them to be more sensible: *There's no point in trying to reason with him – he'll never change his mind.*

rea·so·na·ble /ˈriːzənəbəl/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) showing fairness and good sense: *a reasonable man* | *a reasonable request* | *Be reasonable – you can't expect her to do all the work on her own!* | *a perfectly reasonable thing to do* | *It's reasonable to expect that prices will come down soon.* —opposite **unreasonable**; see LOGICAL (USAGE) **2 a** not too much, too many, or too great: *We live a reasonable distance away from the station.* **b** (of a price) fair; not expensive: *Bananas are quite reasonable this week.* **3** not bad; quite good: *"What's the food in the canteen like?" "It's quite reasonable."* —~**ness** *n* [U]

rea·son·a·bly /ˈriːzənəbli/ *adv* **1** sensibly: *to behave reasonably* **2** quite; fairly: *The car is in reasonably good condition.* | *They live reasonably close.* | *a reasonably-priced car*

rea·soned /ˈriːzənd/ *adj* [A] *apprec* (of a statement, argument, etc.) clearly thought out; based on reason: *a (well-) reasoned statement|explanation*

rea·son·ing /ˈriːzənɪŋ/ *n* [U] the use of one's REASON[1] (2): *According to their reasoning lower oil prices will stimulate business activity in the poorer countries.*

re·as·sure /ˌriːəˈʃʊəʳ/ *v* [T (**about**)] to comfort and make free from fear or worry; bring back confidence to: *I was worried that my work wasn't good enough, but the teacher reassured me (about it).* | *She was reassured by our offer of support.* [+*that*] *The chairman tried to reassure the shareholders that the company's bad results would not be repeated.* —see INSURE (USAGE) —**-surance** *n* [C;U] : *She won't believe it in spite of all our reassurance(s).* —**-suringly** *adv* : *"You'll be all right," he said reassuringly.*

re·bar·ba·tive /rɪˈbɑːbətɪv‖-ɑːr-/ *adj fml* very unattractive or offensive; REPELLENT

re·bate /ˈriːbeɪt/ *n* an official return of part of a payment: *You can claim a rebate on your tax because you didn't work for a full year.* —compare DISCOUNT[1] (1)

reb·el[1] /ˈrebəl/ *n* **1** a person who rebels: *Anti-government rebels have seized the radio station.* | *Tom's always been a bit of a rebel; he hates conforming.* | *rebel tribesmen* | *a rebel stronghold* **2** *AmE* a supporter of the Confederacy in the American Civil War

re·bel[2] /rɪˈbel/ *v* **-ll-** [I (**against**)] to oppose or fight against someone in a position of control: *The people have rebelled against their foreign rulers.* | *children who rebel against authority|against their parents*

re·bel·lion /rɪˈbeljən/ *n* [C;U (**against**)] (an act of) rebelling: *The slaves rose in rebellion against their masters.* | *an armed rebellion* | *The rebellion was ruthlessly put down.* (=stopped) | *The prime minister's determination to pursue this policy led to a rebellion among his own ministers.* —compare REVOLUTION (1)

re·bel·lious /rɪˈbeljəs/ *adj* disobedient and hard to control; tending to rebel: *rebellious teenagers|behaviour* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Rebel With·out a Cause /ˌ·· ·ˌ· · ˈ·/ an American film with James Dean as a young man from a good home who gets into trouble with the police. James Dean's performance has provided an image of the typical REBEL (=someone who opposes authority) since the film first came out in 1955.

re·bind /ˌriːˈbaɪnd/ *v* **-bound** /ˈbaʊnd/ [T] to put a new BINDING (=cover) onto (a book)

re·birth /ˌriːˈbɜːθ‖-ɜːrθ/ *n* [S] *fml* a renewal of life or existence: *The firm had gone bankrupt, but the following year saw its rebirth under a new name.*

re·boot /ˌriːˈbuːt/ *v* [I;T] to start up (a computer), usu. from a state of not working, or not working properly: *That problem should go away as soon as you reboot.* | *We normally reboot our systems only once every 24 hours.* **-reboot** /ˈriːbuːt/ *n*

re·born /ˌriːˈbɔːn‖-ɔːrn/ *adj* [F] *fml or lit* (as if) born again: *Our hopes of success were reborn.*

re·bound[1] /rɪˈbaʊnd/ *v* [I] **1** to fly back after hitting something: *The ball rebounded from the wall and I caught it.* **2** (esp. of prices, amounts, etc.) to move quickly back to a former level after falling: *Share prices rebounded today after last week's falls.*

rebound on/upon sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] (of a harmful action) to have a bad effect on (the person who did it): *His lies rebounded on him in the end because no one trusted him any more.*

re·bound[2] /ˈriːbaʊnd/ *n* **on the rebound: a** while rebounding: *I caught the ball on the rebound.* **b** (while) in an

unsettled state of mind as a result of unhappiness or a disappointment: *He married her on the rebound, only a few weeks after his previous girlfriend left him.*

re·buff /rɪ'bʌf/ *n fml* an unkind or unfriendly answer to a suggestion, request, or offer of help or friendship; SNUB: *Our request for support met with an unexpected rebuff.* —**rebuff** *v* [T] : *She rebuffed all my offers of friendship.*

re·build /ˌriː'bɪld/ *v* **-built** /'bɪlt/ [T] to build again or build new parts to: *The house was rebuilt after the fire.* | (fig.) *a political party that wants to rebuild our manufacturing industry* | (fig.) *to rebuild one's confidence after a setback*

re·buke /rɪ'bjuːk/ *v* [T (**for**)] *fml* to speak to (someone) severely, esp. officially: *The judge rebuked the police for their treatment of the prisoner.* —**rebuke** *n* : *to administer a rebuke*

re·bus /'riːbəs/ *n* a word game or PUZZLE in which words have to be guessed from pictures or letters that suggest the sounds that make them: *"R U 18" is a rebus for "Are you 18?"*

re·but /rɪ'bʌt/ *v* **-tt-** [T] *fml* to prove the falseness of (a statement or charge); REFUTE — ~**tal** *n* [C;U]

re·cal·ci·trant /rɪ'kælsɪtrənt/ *adj fml* refusing to obey or be controlled, even after being punished: *recalcitrant children|behaviour* —**-trance** *n* [U]

re·call[1] /rɪ'kɔːl/ *v* [T] **1** [*not in progressive forms*] *rather fml* **a** to bring back to the mind; remember: *I can't recall the exact details of the report.* [+*v-ing*|*that*] *I don't recall ever meeting her|that I ever met her.* [+*wh-*] *Do you recall why she left?* **b** to make one remember (someone or something) by being similar: *a style of film-making that recalls Alfred Hitchcock* **2** [(**from, to**)] to send for or take back: *The government recalled its ambassador after the diplomatic row.* | *The makers have recalled a lot of cars that were unsafe.* — ~**able** *adj*

re·call[2] /rɪ'kɔːl‖rɪ'kɔːl, 'riːkɔːl/ *n* **1** [S;U (**from, to**)] (a) call to return: *the recall of our ambassador* **2** [U] the power to remember something learned or experienced: *John has* **total recall** *and never forgets anything.* **3 beyond/past recall** impossible to be changed

re·cant /rɪ'kænt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to say publicly that one no longer holds (a former political or religious belief): *He recanted (his faith) and became a Muslim|Christian.* | *She recanted her testimony that she had never met the accused man.* — ~**ation** /ˌriːkæn'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re·cap[1] /'riːkæp/ *v* **-pp-** [I;T] *infml* to recapitulate: *He recapped on what the teacher had said.* —**recap** *n*

re·cap[2] /ˌriː'kæp/ *v* [T] *AmE infml for* RETREAD —**recap** /'riːkæp/ *n*

re·ca·pit·u·late /ˌriːkə'pɪtʃʊleɪt/ *v* [I;T] to repeat (the chief points of something that has been said); SUMMARIZE: *So, to recapitulate, here again are the main reasons why I think we should proceed with the project.* —**-lation** /ˌriːkəpɪtʃʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re·cap·ture /riː'kæptʃəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** to get into one's power again; CAPTURE[1] (1,2) again: *The police recaptured the escaped criminal.* **2** *lit* to bring back into the mind; cause to be experienced again: *a book that recaptures perfectly the flavour of the period*

re·cast /ˌriː'kɑːst‖ˌriː'kæst/ *v* **-cast** [T] **1** to give a new shape to: *to recast a statue|a sentence* **2** to change the actors in (a play): (fig.) *The cabinet* (=most important ministers) *has been completely recast in the latest government changes.*

recd *written abbrev. for:* received

re·cede /rɪ'siːd/ *v* [I (**from**)] **1** (of a thing) to move back or away: *His hair is beginning to recede from his forehead.* | (fig.) *Hopes for their safety are receding fast.* **2** to slope backwards: *a receding chin*

re·ceipt /rɪ'siːt/ *n* **1** [C] a written statement that one has received money (or sometimes goods): *Ask the shop for a receipt when you pay the bill.* | *The assistant will* **make out** (=write) **a receipt.** **2** [U (**of**)] *fml* the fact of receiving: *Did you write to acknowledge receipt of their cheque?* | **On receipt of** (=when we receive) *your instructions, we will send the goods.* **3** [C] *old use for* RECIPE **4 be in receipt of** *pomp* to have received: *We are in receipt of your letter of the 17th.*

re·ceipts /rɪ'siːts/ *n* [P] money received by a business, bank, etc.: *The bank's receipts have increased since last year.*

re·cei·va·ble /rɪ'siːvəbəl/ *adj* **1** able or fit to be received **2** *tech* (of a bill or debt) on which money is to be received —compare PAYABLE (1)

re·ceive /rɪ'siːv/ *v* [T] **1** to come into possession of (something that is given or sent to one); get: *to receive a letter|some good news|a lot of attention* | *The lake receives the water from this river.* | *Are you entitled to receive unemployment benefit?* | *We've received a lot of complaints about the new radio programme.* **2** to experience; be the subject of; UNDERGO: *to receive a nasty shock|a blow on the head from a falling stone* | *He is receiving specialist medical treatment at a private clinic.* **3 a** to accept as a visitor or member; welcome: *He was received into the Church.* | *She only receives guests on Monday afternoons.* **b** to act in reply to: *How did they receive your suggestion?* (=did they like it, dislike it, accept it, refuse it, etc.?) **4 a** (of a radio or television set) to turn (radio waves) into sound or pictures **b** to be able to hear a radio message sent by: *"Are you receiving me?" "Receiving you loud and clear!"* **5 For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful** *quote* a prayer sometimes said before a meal **6 on the re'ceiving end (of)** *infml* suffering (something unpleasant done by someone else): *We were on the receiving end of several complaints.*

re·ceived /rɪ'siːvd/ *adj* [A] *fml or tech* generally accepted or regarded as standard: *The* **received wisdom** (=general opinion) *in Washington is that the Defense Secretary will resign.*

Received Pro·nun·ci·a·tion /·ˌ· ···'··/ *n* [U] RP

re·ceiv·er /rɪ'siːvəʳ/ *n* **1** the part of a telephone that is held to one's ear —see TELEPHONE (USAGE) **2** *fml or old-fash* a radio or television set **3** (*often cap.*) (in British law) someone officially appointed to take charge of affairs of someone who is BANKRUPT (1): *Their business has failed and is* **in the hands of the (official) receiver.** **4** a person who buys and sells stolen property **5** (in American football) an offensive player in a position to catch a pass: *wide receiver* (=one near the border of the playing area)

re·ceiv·er·ship /rɪ'siːvəʃɪp‖-vər-/ *n* [U] the duty of the (official) receiver (3): *Due to the recession this company will* **go into receivership** (=be managed by the receiver) *as from Monday.*

re·ceiv·ing /rɪ'siːvɪŋ/ *n* [U] the crime of being a RECEIVER (4): *The police charged him with receiving.*

re·cent /'riːsənt/ *adj* having happened or come into existence only a short time ago: *recent history* | *a news report on the most recent developments in the court case* | *one of the most exciting elections of recent years* | *during his recent visit to China* —see NEW (USAGE) — ~**ness** *n* [U]

re·cent·ly /'riːsəntli/ *adv* not long ago; lately: *I've only recently started learning French.* | *I lived in London until quite recently.* | *her recently published autobiography*

re·cep·ta·cle /rɪ'septəkəl/ *n tech or fml* a container for keeping things in

re·cep·tion /rɪ'sepʃən/ *n* **1** [C *usu. sing.*] a particular kind of welcome: *I got a warm|a very friendly reception.* | *The Senator was given a cool|hostile reception by the crowd.* **2** [C] a large formal party: *They're giving|holding a reception to welcome the new ambassador.* **3** [U] the office, desk, or department that receives visitors to a hotel or large organization: *Leave your key at reception|at the reception desk.* | *I'll wait for you in reception.* **4** [U] the quality of radio or television signals: *Radio reception isn't very good here.* **5** [C] a large party after a marriage ceremony held at the BRIDE's house, in a restaurant, or in a hotel —see also extra information on page 1402

reception class /·'·· ˌ·/ also **reception**— *n BrE* a class for children aged four or five who have just started at a school

re·cep·tion·ist /rɪ'sepʃənɪst/ *n* a person who welcomes or deals with people arriving in a hotel or place of business, visiting a doctor, etc.

reception room /·'·· ·/ *n tech, esp. BrE* a room, esp. a LIVING ROOM in a private house that is not a kitchen, bedroom, or bathroom: *According to the estate agent's ad, the house has three bedrooms and two reception rooms.*

re·cep·tive /rɪ'septɪv/ *adj* [(**to**)] willing to consider new ideas: *a receptive mind* | *He's not very receptive to my suggestions.* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness, -tivity** /ˌriːsep'tɪvɪti/ *n* [U]

re·cess[1] /rɪ'ses‖'riːses/ *n* **1** [C;U] a pause for rest during the working day or the working year: *Parliament is* **in**

recess *now.* | *the summer recess* **2** [U] *AmE* a short pause between classes in a GRADE SCHOOL **3** [C] a space in the wall of a room for shelves, cupboards, etc.; ALCOVE **4** [C *often pl.*] *lit* a secret inner part or place, that is hard to reach: *the inmost recesses of the cave|of her mind*

re·cess[2] /rɪ'ses/ *v* **1** [T] to make into or put into a RECESS[1] (3): *a recessed bookshelf* **2** [I] *esp. AmE* to take a RECESS[1] (1)

re·ces·sion /rɪ'seʃən/ *n* a period of reduced trade and business activity —compare DEPRESSION (2)

re·ces·sion·al /rɪ'seʃənəl/ *n* a HYMN (=holy song) sung at the end of a church service

re·ces·sive /rɪ'sesɪv/ *adj tech* (of groups of physical qualities passed on from parent to child) only appearing in the child if also in the GENES of both parents: *Blue eyes are recessive and brown eyes are dominant.*

re·charge /ˌriː'tʃɑːdʒ‖-ɑːr-/ *v* [T] to put a new charge of electricity into (a BATTERY): (fig.) *The holiday has really recharged my batteries* (=has made me feel much better). —**recharge** *n* : *These batteries need a recharge.* — ~**able** *adj* : *a rechargeable torch*

re·cher·ché /rə'ʃeəʃeɪ‖rə'ʃeər-, rəˌʃeər'ʃeɪ/ *adj* rare and strange; EXOTIC: *His ideas were too recherché for his audience.*

re·cid·i·vist /rɪ'sɪdɨvɨst/ *n tech* a person who keeps going back to a life of crime, even after being punished; an incurable criminal —**vism** *n* [U]

re·ci·pe /'resɨpi/ *n* [(**for**)] a set of instructions for cooking a particular type of food: *a recipe for (making) chocolate cake* | *He didn't follow the recipe and the cake came out all wrong.* | *a recipe book* | (fig.) *a recipe for a happy marriage* —compare FORMULA (2)

re·cip·i·ent /rɪ'sɪpiənt/ *n* [(**of**)] *fml* a person who receives something: *the recipient of the letter|of the news|of a grant*

re·cip·ro·cal /rɪ'sɪprəkəl/ *adj fml* given and received in return; exchanged between two people or groups; MUTUAL: *a reciprocal trade agreement between two nations* | *They have a reciprocal loathing for|of each other.* — ~**ly** /kli/ *adv*

re·cip·ro·cate /rɪ'sɪprəkeɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] *fml* to give or do something in return (for): *They invited us to their party, and we reciprocated (their invitation) by inviting them to ours.* | *His dislike of me is entirely reciprocated.* (=I dislike him too.) **2** [I] *tech* (of a machine part) to move backwards and forwards in a straight line, like a PISTON: *a reciprocating engine* —**-cation** /rɪˌsɪprə'keɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re·ci·pro·ci·ty /ˌresɨ'prɒsɨti‖-'prɑː-/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* the exchange of advantages between two groups: *reciprocity in trading rights between two nations*

re·cit·al /rɪ'saɪtl/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** a performance of poetry or esp. music, given by one performer, or the students of one teacher, or written by one writer: *a piano recital* — compare CONCERT (1) **2** *fml* an account or description: *He gave us a terrible recital of his experiences.*

re·ci·ta·tion /ˌresɨ'teɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of reciting **2** [C] a piece of literature that is recited: *He gives recitations from Shakespeare.*

re·ci·ta·tive /ˌresɨtə'tiːv/ *n* [C;U] *tech* (a) speech set to music that continues the story of an OPERA (=a musical play) between the songs

re·cite /rɪ'saɪt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to say (something learned) aloud from memory: *to recite a poem* **2** [T] to give a detailed account or list of; ENUMERATE: *He recited his complaints.* **3** [I] *AmE* to answer a teacher's questions about a lesson —**-citer** *n*

reck /rek/ *v* [T] *BrE lit* (usu. with **not** or **little**) to care; mind: *They recked nothing|little of the danger.* | *He little recked what might happen.*

reck·less /'rekləs/ *adj* [(**of**)] (of a person or their behaviour) not caring or worrying about the possible bad or dangerous results of one's actions; hasty and careless: *It was reckless of him to leave his job before he had another one.* | *reckless driving* | *a reckless disregard of the consequences of their action* | (*fml*) *reckless of danger* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

reck·on /'rekən/ *v* [T] **1** to guess; believe as a result of calculating roughly but not exactly: [+*that*] *The experts reckon that about 10,000 tonnes of grain will be needed.* | *How much do you reckon (that) she earns?* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *The likely cost of the system is reckoned to be about $100 million.* **2** [+(*that*); ~~*obj*~~] *infml* to think; suppose: *I reckon (that) he'll come soon.* | *"Can you do it?" "I reckon so."* **3** [*often pass; not in progressive forms*] *rather fml generally* to consider or regard: [+*obj*+*to-v*|*n*|*adj*] *She was reckoned (to be) a great actress|to have the greatest talent of her generation.* [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*, esp. **among, as**] *I reckon him as a friend|among my friends.* **4** [(UP)] *fml* to calculate; add up (an amount, cost, etc.): *My pay is reckoned from the 1st of the month.* | *She reckoned up the cost.*

reckon sthg. ↔ **in** (sthg.) *phr v* [T] *fml* to include (in); take (an amount) into account in (a sum): *Have you reckoned in the cost of postage?* | *Have you reckoned the cost of postage in the total?*

reckon on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to expect or depend on (something happening or having something); make plans in expectation of: *We're reckoning on a large profit|on your support.* [+*v-ing*] *We didn't reckon on spending so much money on the repairs.*

reckon with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to be faced with or opposed by; have to deal with: *If you do that again you'll have the head teacher to reckon with.* **2** to take account of in one's plans: *We hadn't reckoned with the possibility that it might rain.* **3 to be reckoned with** to be takèn into account seriously as a possible opponent, competitor, danger, etc.: *She's a woman to be reckoned with.* | *The new company is already a force to be reckoned with.*

reckon without sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to fail to take account of (possible problems) when making a plan; not consider: *When he decided to change his job, he reckoned without the difficulty of selling his house.*

reck·on·ing /'rekənɪŋ/ *n* **1** [U] calculation, esp. rough rather than exact calculation: *By my reckoning, it must be 60 kilometres from here to the coast.* | *I think you're out* (=mistaken) *in your reckoning.* **2** [C] *old use* a bill: *We paid our reckoning and left.* **3** [U] the calculation of a ship's position —compare DEAD RECKONING; see also DAY OF RECKONING

re·claim /rɪ'kleɪm/ *v* [T (**from**)] **1** to ask for the return of: *You may be entitled to reclaim some of the tax you paid last year.* **2** to make (land) fit for use: *This land was reclaimed from the sea.* **3** to obtain (useful materials) from a waste product: *a firm that reclaims metal from old cars* **4** *fml* to help to behave in a more socially acceptable way, lead a better life, etc.: *Her mission was to reclaim former criminals.* —**reclamation** /ˌreklə'meɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *land reclamation*

re·cline /rɪ'klaɪn/ *v* **1** [I+*adv*|*prep*] *fml* to lie back or down; be or put oneself in a position of rest: *She reclined lazily on the cushions.* | *in a reclining position* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] *fml* to lean (a part of oneself): *She reclined her head against my shoulder.*

re·cluse /rɪ'kluːs‖'rekluːs/ *n* a person who lives alone away from the world and avoids other people; HERMIT

rec·og·ni·tion /ˌrekəg'nɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the fact of knowing someone or something; recognizing or being recognized: *She hoped she would avoid recognition by wearing dark glasses and a hat.* | *Illness and age had changed her* **beyond recognition/out of all recognition**. (=made her impossible to recognize) | *a voice recognition system for a computer* **2** [U] the state of being accepted as legal, real, or valuable: *The new government has not yet received recognition from other countries.* | *a young writer struggling for recognition* **3** [S;U (**of**)] *fml* (a) reward given to show gratefulness: *Please accept this cheque* **in recognition of/as a recognition of** *your services.*

re·cog·ni·zance /rɪ'kɒgnɪzəns ‖ -'kɑːg-/ *n* [U] *law* **on one's own recognizance** with the promise that one will do what has been asked by a court, e.g. to appear at one's TRIAL: *After the arraignment the men were released on their own recognizance until the trial next month.* — compare BAIL[1] (1)

rec·og·nize also **-nise** *BrE* /'rekəgnaɪz, 'rekən-/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** to know again (someone or something one has seen, heard, or experienced before): *I recognized Mary in the photograph.* | *Dogs recognize people by their smell.* | *The town has changed so much you wouldn't recognize it.* | *The doctor immediately recognized the child's symptoms; she had measles.* **2** [(**as**)] to accept as being legal or real, or as having value: *They refused to recognize our government|to recognize the union.* | *She is a recognized authority on teaching English* **3** to see clearly though perhaps unwillingly; be prepared to admit: *You must recognize the difficult position the*

company is in. [+(*that*)] *We recognize that this is an unpleasant choice to have to make.* **4** to show official gratefulness for: *The government recognized his services by making him a lord.* —**-nizable** *adj* —**-nizably** *adv*

re·coil[1] /rɪˈkɔɪl/ *v* [I] **1** [(**from**)] to move back suddenly in fear or dislike: *She recoiled at the sight of the snake|recoiled from the snake.* | (*fig.*) *He tends to recoil from making difficult decisions.* **2** (of a gun) to spring back (when fired)

recoil on/upon sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *fml* (of a harmful action) to have a bad effect on (the person who did it): *Their dishonest business methods recoiled on them because no one would do business with them any more.*

re·coil[2] /ˈriːkɔɪl, rɪˈkɔɪl/ *n* [S;U] (a) sudden backward movement, esp. of a gun after firing

rec·ol·lect /ˌrekəˈlekt/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *rather fml* to call back to mind (something formerly known); remember: *Do you recollect her name?* [+*v-ing*|*wh-*] *I don't recollect meeting her|where she lives|how to get there.* [+(*that*)] *I recollect (that) she had red hair.* | *As far as I (can) recollect, her name is Juliet.*

rec·ol·lec·tion /ˌrekəˈlekʃən/ *n rather fml* **1** [U (**of**)] the power or action of remembering the past; memory: *I have no recollection of* (=do not remember) *meeting him.* | *Her recollection of the events is rather patchy.* **2** [C] something in one's memory of the past: *That evening together is one of my happiest recollections.* **3 to the best of my recollection** if I remember right; I think, but am not sure: *To the best of my recollection she drives a Mercedes.*

re·com·bi·nant DNA /riːˌkɒmbɪnənt diː en ˈeɪ‖-ˌkɑːm-/ *n* [U] DNA that has been taken out of one cell and combined with the DNA of another cell. The cells may come from completely different kinds of living things, such as animals and plants —see also GENETIC ENGINEERING

rec·om·mend /ˌrekəˈmend/ *v* [T] **1** [(**for, as, to**)] to praise as being good for a purpose; provide information about (someone or something good): *They recommended her for the job|as a good lawyer.* | *Can you recommend a good hotel (to me)?* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] (*BrE*) *Can you recommend me a good hotel?* **2** to advise or suggest as a correct or suitable course of action: *I recommend caution in dealing with this matter.* [+*v-ing*] *He recommends wearing safety equipment.* [+*that*] | *The committee has recommended that the training programme (should) be improved.* | *You shouldn't exceed the recommended dose of the medicine.* **3** [(**to**)] (of a quality) to make (someone or something) attractive: *This hotel has nothing to recommend it (to travellers) except cheapness.*

rec·om·men·da·tion /ˌrekəmenˈdeɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] the act of recommending or something (esp. a course of action) that is recommended; advice or suggestion: *We bought the car on Paul's recommendation.* (=he recommended it) | *The government has agreed to implement* (=carry out) *the recommendations in the report.* | *We agreed to make a recommendation to the board.* **2** [C] a letter or statement that recommends, esp. someone for a job: *I wrote him a good recommendation.*

rec·om·pense[1] /ˈrekəmpens/ *v* [T (**for**)] *fml* to give a recompense to: *We ought to recompense them (for their trouble).*

recompense[2] *n* [S;U (**for**)] *fml* a reward or payment (for trouble, loss, inconvenience, etc.): *They received £1000* **in recompense**|*as a recompense for the damage to their house.* —compare COMPENSATION, CONSOLATION

rec·on·cile /ˈrekənsaɪl/ *v* [T (**with**)] **1** to find agreement between (two ideas, situations, etc. that seem to be in opposition): *How do you reconcile your political principles with your religious beliefs?* | *the problem of reconciling all the different versions of this event* **2** to bring back friendly relations between; make friendly again: *They quarrelled, but now they're completely reconciled.* —**-cilable** /ˌrekənˈsaɪləbəl/ *adj*

reconcile sbdy. **to** sthg. *phr v* [T] to cause (someone) to accept (something unwanted or unpleasant): *He never became reconciled to the loss of his wife.*

rec·on·cil·i·a·tion /ˌrekənsɪliˈeɪʃən/ also **rec·on·cile·ment** /ˈrekənsaɪlmənt/— *n* [S;U (**between, with**)] (a) bringing back of friendly relations: *There was no hope of a reconciliation between the two families.* | *a spirit of reconciliation* | *to effect a reconciliation*

rec·on·dite /ˈrekəndaɪt, rɪˈkɒn-‖ˈrekən-, rɪˈkɑːn-/ *adj fml* (of ideas, knowledge, etc.) not commonly known; difficult to understand; ABSTRUSE: *a recondite subject* —~**ness** *n* [U]

re·con·di·tion /ˌriːkənˈdɪʃən/ *v* [T] to repair and bring back into working order: *A reconditioned engine is cheaper than a new one.*

re·con·nais·sance /rɪˈkɒnəsəns‖rɪˈkɑː-/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) reconnoitring: *The patrol made a reconnaissance.* | *a reconnaissance flight|aircraft*

re·con·noi·tre *BrE* ‖ **-ter** *AmE* /ˌrekəˈnɔɪtəʳ‖ˌriː-/ *v* [I;T] (of soldiers, ships, or aircraft) to go near (the place where an enemy is) in order to find out the enemy's numbers, position, etc.

re·con·sid·er /ˌriːkənˈsɪdəʳ/ *v* [I;T] to think again about (a subject) with the possibility of changing one's mind: *She was asked to reconsider her decision to resign.* —~**ation** /ˌriːkənsɪdəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re·con·sti·tute /riːˈkɒnstəˌtjuːt‖riːˈkɑːnstəˌtuːt/ *v* [T] **1** to bring back into existence, usu. in a changed form: *We decided to reconstitute the committee under a new chairman.* **2** to bring back (dried food) into its former condition by adding water: *Milk powder has to be reconstituted.* | *reconstituted potato*

re·con·struct /ˌriːkənˈstrʌkt/ *v* [T] **1** to rebuild after destruction or damage **2** to build up a complete description or picture of (something only partly known): *The police are trying to reconstruct the crime from the few clues they have.*

re·con·struc·tion /ˌriːkənˈstrʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] the action, or an example of reconstructing: *a reconstruction of an 18th-century village* **2** [U] (*cap.*) (1865–77) the period of American history after the Civil War when the southern states, under government and military control, rejoined the US. Slavery was **abolished** (ABOLISH), black people were given the right to vote, and a few universities were established for black people. Many white southerners strongly opposed these measures and some formed the KU KLUX KLAN. Military control ended in 1877. —see also CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, CIVIL WAR

re·cord[1] /rɪˈkɔːd‖-ɔːrd/ *v* **1** [T] to write down (a description or piece of information) so that it will be known in the future: *I recorded the score in a notebook.* | *The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.* [+*wh-*] *What became of him|How he died is not recorded.* | *This is the first recorded case of anyone surviving this disease.* **2** [I;T] to preserve (sound or a television broadcast) so that it can be heard and/or seen again: *The machine is recording now.* | *The broadcast was recorded, not live.* | *Their conversation was secretly recorded.* | *She has recorded several albums.* (=several records of her music have been made) **3** [T] (of an instrument) to show by measuring: *The thermometer recorded a temperature of 28 degrees.* | *Winds of up to 100 kph have been recorded.*

rec·ord[2] /ˈrekɔːd‖-ərd/ *n* **1** [C (**of**)] a written statement of facts, events, etc.: *Keep a record of how much you spend.*| (fig.) **To set the record straight** (=so that the true facts will be known), *it was not my decision to do this.* **2** [C] the known or recorded facts about the past behaviour or performance of a person, group, company, etc.: *John and Peter both have fine military records.* | *He has a long criminal record.* | *She's new to the sales department, but her* **track record** (=list of successes) *as publicity director is excellent.* **3** [C (**for**)] the best yet done, esp. in sport; the highest/lowest figure ever reached: *She set|established a record|broke the record for long distance swimming.* | *the British long-jump record* | *She holds the world record for discus throwing.* **4** [C (**of**)] also **gramophone record, disc, LP, album**— a circular piece of plastic on which sound is stored by MECHANICAL means so that it can be played back at any time (on a RECORD PLAYER): *Put on|Play another record.* | *She has made several records of Schubert songs.* | *a record collection* —compare COMPACT DISC **5** [C (**of**)] something that provides information about the past: *Archaeologists dig up the records of ancient civilizations.* **6** *tech* a unit of stored DATA on a computer that can be handled in a single operation **7** [U] *fml* the state of being recorded in writing and therefore established as fact: *It is a* **matter of record** (=known to be true) *that no one has ever failed this examination.* **8 for the record** declared openly and formally, esp. so as to make known one's disagreement: *Just for the record, I think we're making a grave mistake.* **9 off the record** *infml* unofficial(ly); speaking/spoken privately: *My*

remarks were off the record and are not to be printed. | *Strictly off the record* (=I am speaking unofficially), *the company is in serious trouble.* —see also OFF-THE-RECORD

10 on record: a (of a fact or event) ever recorded: *the coldest winter on record* **b** (of a person) having publicly said, as if for written records: *He* **is/went on record** *as having opposed this law.* | *I'd like to* **put on record** *my opposition to this law.* (=state it clearly and have it recorded)

record[3] *adj* [A] more, faster, better, etc., than ever before: *a record crop of corn* | *They finished in record time.* | *Sales have reached record levels/a record high.*

record-break·ing /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *adj* (usu. in sport) going beyond the former RECORD[2] (3): *a record-breaking speed* —**record-breaker** *n*

recorded de·liv·er·y /·ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] *BrE* a method of sending mail by which one can get official proof that it has been delivered: *I sent it (by) recorded delivery.* —compare CERTIFIED MAIL

re·cord·er /rɪˈkɔːdəʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* **1** a simple musical instrument of the WOODWIND family, with no REED (2), played by blowing into it; a kind of whistle **2** a TAPE RECORDER **3** (*often cap.*) a judge in some city courts both in Britain and in the US

re·cord·ing /rɪˈkɔːdɪŋ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* [(**of**)] (esp. in broadcasting) a performance, speech, or piece of music that has been recorded: *They made a recording of her voice.* | *some recordings of early Italian music* | *We listened to his latest recording.*

record li·bra·ry /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a collection of RECORDS[2] (4) for people to borrow, usu. for a small charge

record play·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **gramophone** *old-fash BrE* ‖ **phonograph** *old-fash AmE*— *n* a piece of equipment which can turn the information stored on a RECORD[2] (4) back into the original sounds, music, etc. —see also STEREO[1] (1)

re·count[1] /rɪˈkaʊnt/ *v* [T] *fml* to tell (a story): *She recounted her adventures.*

re·count[2] /ˌriːˈkaʊnt/ *v* [T] to count again: *They had to recount the votes.*

re·count[3] /ˈriːkaʊnt/ *n* a second or fresh count, esp. of votes: *The defeated candidate demanded a recount.*

re·coup /rɪˈkuːp/ *v* [T] **1** to get back; regain (what one has lost or spent): *I recoup my travelling expenses from my employer.* **2** to provide (oneself) again with money: *He stole the diamonds to recoup himself for his gambling losses.*

re·course /rɪˈkɔːs‖ˈriːkɔːrs/ *n* [U] *fml* the use of someone or something as a means of help: *The company hopes to solve this problem* **without recourse to** (=without making use of) *further borrowing.* —compare RESORT[1] (2)

re·cov·er /rɪˈkʌvəʳ/ *v* **1** [T] to get back or bring back (esp. something lost or taken away): *The police recovered the stolen jewellery.* | *She recovered consciousness soon after the accident.* | *The company hopes to recover the cost of developing this product within about two years.* | *They are still trying to recover bodies from the wrecked building.* (=find them and get them out) **2** [I (**from**)] to return to the proper state of health, strength, ability, etc.: *He is very ill and unlikely to recover.* | *recovering from a bad cold* | (fig.) *The country had not yet recovered from the effects of the war.* **3** [T] *fml* to get (oneself or one's senses, powers, etc.) back into a proper or favourable state or position: *He almost fell, but managed to recover himself.* | *She soon recovered herself/her control and went on with her lecture.* —~**able** *adj*

re-cov·er /ˌriːˈkʌvəʳ/ *v* [T] to put a new cover on: *They recovered all the chairs in purple silk.*

re·cov·er·y /rɪˈkʌvəri/ *n* **1** [U] the getting back of something: *the recovery of the stolen jewels* **2** [S (**from**)] a return to good health, a strong condition, etc.: *She made a quick/speedy recovery from her illness and was soon back at work.* | *Will the government's policies lead to an economic recovery?*

recovery pro·gram /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a programme that helps people with difficult problems of ADDICTION (=being unable to stop doing or using something harmful e.g. drugs, alcohol, etc.). Recovery programmes, also called **12-step programs**, are very common in the US. Many of the programmes are free and are operated by the people who take part in them.

rec·re·ant /ˈrekriənt/ *n old use* a cowardly and disloyal person

re·cre·ate /ˌriːkriˈeɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make a copy of: *a Spanish bar which tries to recreate the atmosphere of a typical English pub* **2** to cause to be seen, heard, or experienced again, esp. in the mind: *to recreate the past in one's imagination*

rec·re·a·tion /ˌrekriˈeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (a form of) amusement and enjoyment; way of spending free time: *His only recreations are drinking beer and working in the garden.* | *a recreation programme for senior citizens* —~**al** *adj* : *recreational activities/facilities*

▷ USAGE **Recreation** [U] is a general word for what people do in their spare time for amusement and enjoyment. A **recreation** [C] is any particular activity which is done for amusement. Forms of recreation include **sport,** which needs physical effort and is usually played according to rules: *I'm not interested in* **sport.** | *My favourite* **sports** *are tennis and football.* A **game** is either an example of a sport, or an activity in which people compete with each other using their brains : *Let's have a* **game** *of tennis/cards.* An important public game is a **match:** *Have you got a ticket for the football* **match** *on Saturday?* A **hobby** is a form of recreation which people do on their own, not in order to compete: *Her* **hobbies** *are gardening, stamp-collecting, and playing the piano.*◁

recreation ground /··ˈ·· ·/ *BrE*‖**playground** *AmE*— *n* a piece of public land set aside for games: *The children were playing football on the recreation ground.*

recreation room /··ˈ·· ·/ *n* **1** a public room, for example in a hospital, used for social activities **2** *AmE* also **rec room** *infml* a room in a house used for playing games in

recreational ve·hi·cle /··ˌ··· ˈ···/ also **RV**— *n AmE tech* a motor vehicle made esp. for recreation, such as camping or travelling with a family. Many states require special LICENSE PLATES for such vehicles, which usu. carry the letters **RV**.

re·crim·i·nate /rɪˈkrɪmɨneɪt/ *v* [I (**against**)] *fml* to make a charge of lying, dishonesty, or other bad behaviour against a person who has already made a charge against oneself —**-natory** /nətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj*

re·crim·i·na·tion /rɪˌkrɪmɨˈneɪʃən/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*;U (**against**)] (an act of) quarrelling and blaming one another: *Let's make friends, instead of wasting our time on recrimination(s) (against each other).* | *The negotiations broke down in an atmosphere of recrimination.*

rec room /ˈrek ruːm, -rʊm/ *n AmE infml for* RECREATION ROOM (2)

re·cru·des·cence /ˌriːkruːˈdesəns/ *n* [+**of**] *fml* a sudden fresh reappearance, esp. of something unpleasant: *a recrudescence of urban violence*

re·cruit[1] /rɪˈkruːt/ *n* **1** someone who has just joined one of the armed forces, esp. without being forced to, and is still being trained: *a squad of* **raw** (=completely untrained) **recruits** **2** [(**to**)] a new member of an organization: *New recruits to our music club are always welcome.*

recruit[2] *v* **1** [T] to find in order to employ; get the services of: *We are having difficulties in recruiting well-qualified staff.* | *Most of the teachers there are recruited from abroad.* **2** [I;T] **a** to get (recruits) for the armed forces **b** to form (an army, etc.) by doing this: *The King recruited an army.* —compare CONSCRIPT[1] **3** [T] to attract and obtain (someone) as a new member: *to recruit new members to the party/the club* | *a recruiting drive* **4** [I;T] *old use or fml* to regain (one's health, strength, etc.), e.g. by rest and good food —~**ment** *n* [U]

recruitment a·gen·cy /·ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* a business that makes its money by finding suitable people for employers who need new workers, esp. WHITE-COLLAR workers

rec·tal /ˈrektəl/ *adj med* of the RECTUM —~**ly** *adv*

rec·tan·gle /ˈrektæŋgəl/ *n* a flat shape with four straight sides forming four RIGHT ANGLES —compare SQUARE[1] (1), and see picture at QUADRILATERAL

rec·tan·gu·lar /rekˈtæŋgjʊlәʳ/ *adj tech* in the shape of a rectangle

rec·ti·fi·er /ˈrektɨfaɪәʳ/ *n* **1** someone or something that rectifies (RECTIFY (1,2)) **2** *tech* an instrument that rectifies (RECTIFY (3))

rec·ti·fy /ˈrektɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] **1** *fml* to put right: *Please rectify the mistakes in my bill.* **2** *tech* to make pure: *rectified alcohol* **3** *tech* to change (an ALTERNATING CURRENT, or

flow of electricity backwards and forwards along a wire) so that it flows only one way (DIRECT CURRENT) —**-fiable** *adj* —**-fication** /ˌrektɨfɨˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

rec·ti·lin·e·ar /ˌrektɨˈlɪniəʳ◂/ *adj fml or tech* forming or moving in a straight line; having or made of straight lines

rec·ti·tude /ˈrektɨtjuːd‖-tuːd/ *n* [U] *fml* honesty of character; moral correctness

rec·to /ˈrektəʊ/ *adj, n* **-tos** [A;C] *tech* (being) a right-hand page of a book: *written on the recto (side)* —compare VERSO

rec·tor /ˈrektəʳ/ *n* **1** (in the Church of England and the Episcopal church) a priest in charge of an area (PARISH) from which he receives his income directly —compare VICAR (1) **2** the head of certain colleges and schools, esp. in Scotland

rec·to·ry /ˈrektəri/ *n* the house where a RECTOR (1) lives or used to live

rec·tum /ˈrektəm/ *n med* the lowest end of the bowels (the LARGE INTESTINE) through which solid food waste passes from the COLON to the ANUS —see also RECTAL

re·cum·bent /rɪˈkʌmbənt/ *adj fml* lying down on the back or side: *a recumbent statue|posture*

re·cu·pe·rate /rɪˈkjuːpəreɪt, -ˈkuː-/ *v* [I;T] to get well again after illness or difficulty; get back (one's health, strength, etc.): *He went to the mountains to recuperate (his strength).* | (fig.) *to recuperate one's financial losses* —**-ration** /rɪˌkjuːpəˈreɪʃən, -ˌkuː-/ *n* [U]

re·cu·pe·ra·tive /rɪˈkjuːpərətɪv, -ˈkuː-‖-pəreɪtɪv/ *adj* helping one to recuperate: *a recuperative holiday*

re·cur /rɪˈkɜːʳ/ *v* **-rr-** [I] **1** (esp. of something unpleasant or unwelcome) to happen or appear again, or more than once; return: *If the pain recurs, take these tablets.* | *The memory of the accident often recurs to me.* (=returns to my mind) | *a recurring dream|problem* **2** *tech* (of a DECIMAL) to be repeated for ever in the same order: *In 5·1515 ... the figures 15 recur, and the number can be read "5·15 recurring".*

re·cur·rence /rɪˈkʌrəns‖-ˈkɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) recurring: *the frequent recurrence|several recurrences of the disease|of a technical fault*

re·cur·rent /rɪˈkʌrənt‖-ˈkɜːr-/ *adj* happening again and again; repeated: *a recurrent problem* | *recurrent pains in the head* —~**ly** *adv*

re·cu·sant /ˈrekjʊzənt/ *n, adj old use fml* (someone) refusing to obey official rules or esp. to accept official religious beliefs: *recusant priests*

recyclable



re·cy·cla·ble /ˌriːˈsaɪkləbəl/ *n, adj* (being) a thing that can be recycled: *recyclable plastic bags* | *Separate the recyclables in those boxes over there.*

re·cy·cle /ˌriːˈsaɪkəl/ *v* [T] to treat (a substance that has already been used) so that it is fit to use again. People who care about the environment like to recycle things they have finished with to help preserve the earth's natural RESOURCES: *The glass from bottles can be recycled.* | *a bag made of recycled paper*

re·cy·cling /ˌriːˈsaɪklɪŋ/ *n, adj* [U] (of) the activity of reusing things that have already been used: *The children are very enthusiastic about recycling.* | *Is there a* **recycling centre** =place to take recyclables) *around here?*

recycling plant /·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a workplace where materials such as glass or paper which have been used once are prepared for re-use

red[1] /red/ *adj* **-dd-** **1** of the colour of blood or fire: *a red rose|dress* | *We painted the door red.* **2** (of human hair) of a bright brownish orange or copper colour **3** (of the human skin) pink, usu. for a short time: *I turned red with embarrassment|anger.* | *The child's eyes* (=the skin round the eyes) *were red from crying.* **4** (of wine) of a dark pink to dark purple colour **5 be like a red rag** (*BrE*)**|a red flag** (*AmE*) **to a bull** *infml* to be likely to cause uncontrollable anger: *She's an ardent feminist, so jokes about women are like a red rag to a bull to her.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

red[2] *n* **1** [C;U] (a) red colour: *the reds and yellows of the evening sky* | *You mix red and yellow to make orange.* | *The colour red is often used as a sign of danger, and in signs on roads meaning "stop".* **2** [U] red clothes: *dressed in red* **3 in|into|out of the red** in|into|out of debt: *Your account is in the red.* —opposite **in the black** —see also **paint the town red** (PAINT[2]), **see red** (SEE[1])

Red[1] *adj* **1** *derog* (esp. in newspapers) supporting LEFT-WING political ideas; Socialist or Communist: *"Red Ken wins seat in Parliament."* (newspaper report) —compare PINK[1] (2) **2** [*no comp.*] of Communist countries; esp. formerly the Communist countries of Eastern Europe **3 better Red than dead** a phrase used during the Cold War by some people opposed to NUCLEAR weapons, meaning that it would be better to be controlled by a Communist government than to be killed in a nuclear war

Red[2] *n derog* **1** for COMMUNIST **2 Reds under the beds** the unreasonable idea that there are secret Communists in public life who are a threat to the state. This phrase was used esp. after the Second World War by those opposed to Joseph McCarthy's unreasonable charges against many people in American public life that they were Communists. —see also McCARTHYISM

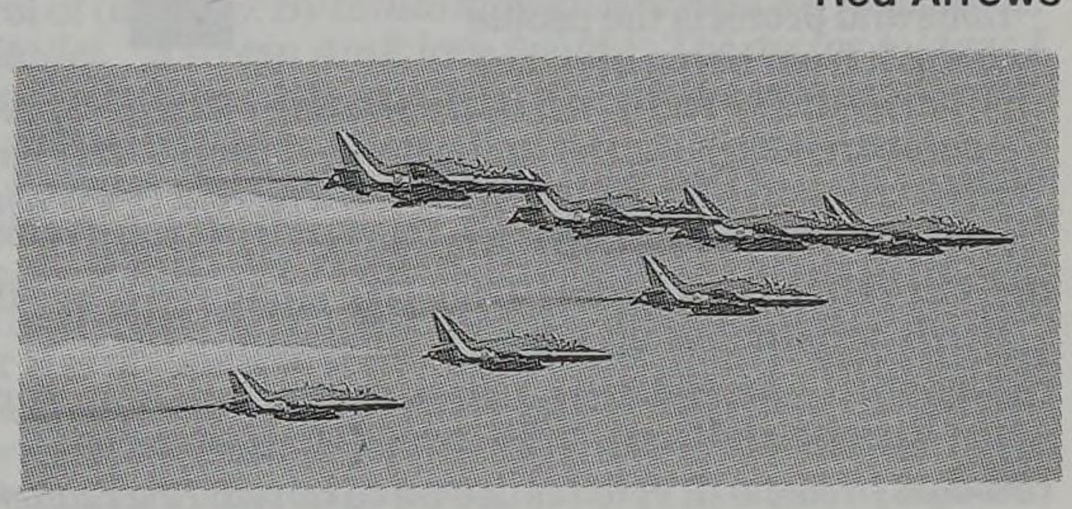
red ad·mi·ral /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* a BUTTERFLY with bright red marks on its black wings, common in Europe and America

red a·lert /ˌ· ·ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] (a condition of readiness to deal with) a situation of sudden great danger: *The hospital services have been put on red alert.*

Red Ar·my /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] **1** the Soviet army formed by the COMMUNIST government of the former USSR in 1918, the idea of which was to make a people's army, the soldiers coming from the workers and the officers being good Communist party men. The word Red was dropped in 1946. **2** a Japanese politically very LEFT-WING TERRORIST group formed in the 1960s

Red Ar·my Fac·tion /ˌ· ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] see BAADER-MEINHOF GANG

Red Arrows



Red Ar·rows /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*+P] a team of British fighter aircraft which fly at shows to entertain people

Red Bar·on /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] (1882–1918) a German airman, the **Baron von Richthofen**, who commanded a group of fighter planes during the First World War. The planes were known as Richthofen's Flying Circus because they were red and highly decorated. He shot down more planes (80) than any other pilot and was finally shot down behind enemy lines.

Red Ber·ets /ˌ· ˈ··‖ˌ· ·ˈ·/ [*the*+P] the popular name for the PARACHUTE division of the British army, so called because of their red hats

red blood cell /ˌ· ˈ· ·/ also **red cor·pus·cle** /ˌ· ˈ···/— *n* any of the cells in the blood which carry oxygen to every part of the body —compare WHITE BLOOD CELL

red-blood·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj apprec* (of a person or their behaviour) confident and strong; VIRILE: *a few red-blooded curses* | *red-blooded males*

red·breast /ˈredbrest/ *n lit for* ROBIN

red·brick /ˈredˌbrɪk/ *n* (*often cap.*) any of the British universities started in the late 19th century in cities outside London: *Manchester and Leeds are redbricks|are redbrick universities.* —compare OXBRIDGE

Red Bri·gades /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ [*the*] a LEFT-WING extremist TERRORIST group operating in Italy from the early 1970s

red card /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a piece of red card held up by the REFEREE of a football match to show that a player is to be sent off the field for carrying out a FOUL: *The referee has given|shown him the red card.* | *It's a red card for their top goalscorer.*

red car·pet /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*] a special ceremonial welcome to

an important guest, sometimes involving laying a red carpet on the ground for the guest to walk on: *We'll roll out the red carpet when the President comes.* | *We'll give him the* **red-carpet treatment.**

red cent /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [S] *AmE infml* a very small amount of money: *I wouldn't give you a red cent for that old clunker.* | *not worth a red cent*

Red Chi·na /ˌ· ˈ··/ *infml for* The People's Republic of CHINA

red·coat /ˈredkəʊt/ *n* **1** a worker at a HOLIDAY CAMP who helps entertain holidaymakers **2** a British soldier during the 18th and 19th centuries

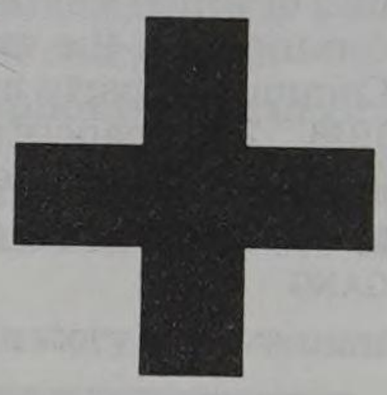
Red Cres·cent /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement whose aim is to offer protection and help to people suffering as a result of wars, natural disasters, etc. National Red Crescent Societies are found in many Muslim countries. Its sign, a red CRESCENT, is recognized under the Geneva Conventions and protects the people using it from being attacked or harmed —compare RED CROSS

the symbol for the Red Crescent



Red Cross /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement whose aim is to offer protection and help to people suffering as a result of wars, natural disasters, etc. Its sign, a red cross on a white background, is recognized under the Geneva Conventions and protects the people using it from being attacked or harmed: *The Red Cross is|are sending medical supplies.* —compare RED CRESCENT and wounded people. Its sign is a red cross on a white background: *The Red Cross is|are sending medical supplies.*

the symbol for the Red Cross



red·cur·rant /ˌredˈkʌrənt◂‖-ˈkɜːr-/ *n* a small red berry that grows in bunches on a bush: *redcurrant wine*

red deer /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* **red deer** a large deer common in northern Europe and Asia, with a reddish brown coat

red·den /ˈredn/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) turn red: *She reddened with embarrassment.* | *The sunset reddened the clouds.*

Red Dev·ils /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*+P] a special British army team who give public performances of SKYDIVING

Red·ding /ˈredɪŋ/, **O·tis** /ˈəʊtɨs/ (1941–67) an American popular music singer and songwriter considered to be one of the best SOUL singers. After his death in a plane crash, his records continued to be successful, esp. *Dock Of The Bay.*

red·dish /ˈredɪʃ/ *adj* slightly red

re·dec·o·rate /riːˈdekəreɪt/ *v* [I;T] to put new paint, paper, etc., on (the inside of a building): *We must redecorate the bathroom.*

re·deem /rɪˈdiːm/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to carry out; fulfil: *Has the government redeemed all its election promises?* **2** to make free of blame or bring back into favour: *She redeemed herself|her reputation with a powerful speech to the party convention.* **3** to make (something bad) slightly less bad: *Olivier's performance redeems an otherwise second-rate production.* | *He's a thoroughly unpleasant man; his one* **redeeming feature** *is his honesty.* **4** [(**from**)] to buy back (something one has given in return for being lent money): *I redeemed my watch from the pawnshop.* **5** *fml* to buy or gain (someone's) freedom: *Christ came to Earth to redeem us from sin.* **6** to exchange for goods or other things of value: *Redeem this coupon for 10p off your next purchase.* —~**able** *adj*

Re·deem·er /rɪˈdiːməʳ/ [*the, our*] *lit* Jesus Christ

re·demp·tion /rɪˈdempʃən/ *n* [U] **1** the action of redeeming or state of being redeemed **2 beyond/past redemption** *fml* too bad to be saved or improved

redemption cen·ter /·ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n AmE* a place where TRADING STAMPS can be redeemed

Red En·sign /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] the flag of the British Merchant Navy, a red flag with the Union Jack in the top left corner

re·de·ploy /ˌriːdɪˈplɔɪ/ *v* [T] to rearrange (workers, soldiers, equipment, etc.) in a more effective way: *This small school is being closed, but the teachers will be redeployed* (=given new jobs) *in other schools.* —~**ment** *n* [U]

re·de·vel·op /ˌriːdɪˈveləp/ *v* [T] to rebuild (a building or esp. an area): *The old city centre has been completely redeveloped since the war.* —~**ment** *n* [C;U]

red eye /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] **1** an unwanted effect in a photograph taken with a flash, in which a person's eyes appear to be red **2** *AmE sl* cheap WHISKEY or other strong spirits **3** *AmE infml* a passenger aircraft making a long-distance flight at night: *He's travelling on the red-eye from New York.*

red-faced /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (having red cheeks because of being) embarrassed or ashamed about something: *After their predictions of easy success, the actual election result left them very red-faced.*

red flag /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* **1** [C] a flag of a red colour, used as a danger signal **2** [*the*] (*often cap.*) **a** the flag of the political LEFT² (2) **b** the party song of the political LEFT² (4)

Red·ford /ˈredfəd‖-fərd/, **Rob·ert** /ˈrɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt (1937–) an American film actor and DIRECTOR who was in films such as *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Sting*, and *Out of Africa*. He is popular for his good looks as well as his acting. —see pictures at BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID, GREAT GATSBY

red gi·ant /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a coolish star, near to the middle of its life, larger and less solid than the sun —compare WHITE DWARF

Red·grave /ˈredgreɪv/, **Sir Mi·chael** /ˈmaɪkəl/ (1908–1985) an English film and theatre actor

Redgrave, Va·nes·sa /vəˈnesə/ (1937–) an English actress, the daughter of Sir Michael Redgrave. She is active in LEFT-WING politics.

red-hand·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [F] in the act of doing something wrong: *They caught him red-handed while he was just putting the diamonds in his pocket.*

red·head /ˈredhed/ *n infml* a person, esp. a woman, with RED¹ (2) hair: *He married a beautiful redhead.*

red her·ring /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a fact or subject which is introduced to draw people's attention away from the main point

red-hot /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of metal) so hot that it shines red: *red-hot iron* | (fig.) *red-hot enthusiasm* —compare WHITE-HOT

Re·dif·fu·sion /ˌriːdɪˈfjuːʒən/ *BrE* a system for sending radio and television programmes to listeners and viewers by using CABLEs

Red In·di·an /ˌ· ˈ···/ also **Indian**— *n taboo* a NATIVE AMERICAN

re·di·rect /ˌriːdaɪˈrekt, -dɨ-/ *BrE* ‖ **forward** *AmE*— *v* [T] to send in a new direction, esp. to send (a letter) to a different address

re·dis·trib·ute /ˌriːdɪˈstrɪbjuːt/ *v* [T] to share out again in a different way —**-ution** /ˌriːdɪstrɨˈbjuːʃən/ *n* [U] : *the redistribution of wealth in the country*

Red Leices·ter /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a type of English cheese

red-let·ter day /ˌ· ˈ·· ·/ *n* a specially happy day that will be remembered: *It was a red-letter day for us when Paul came home from the war.*

red light /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* a red light used as a danger signal or as a sign that vehicles should stop —compare GREEN LIGHT

red-light dis·trict /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the part of a town where one can hire women for sexual pleasure (PROSTITUTES)

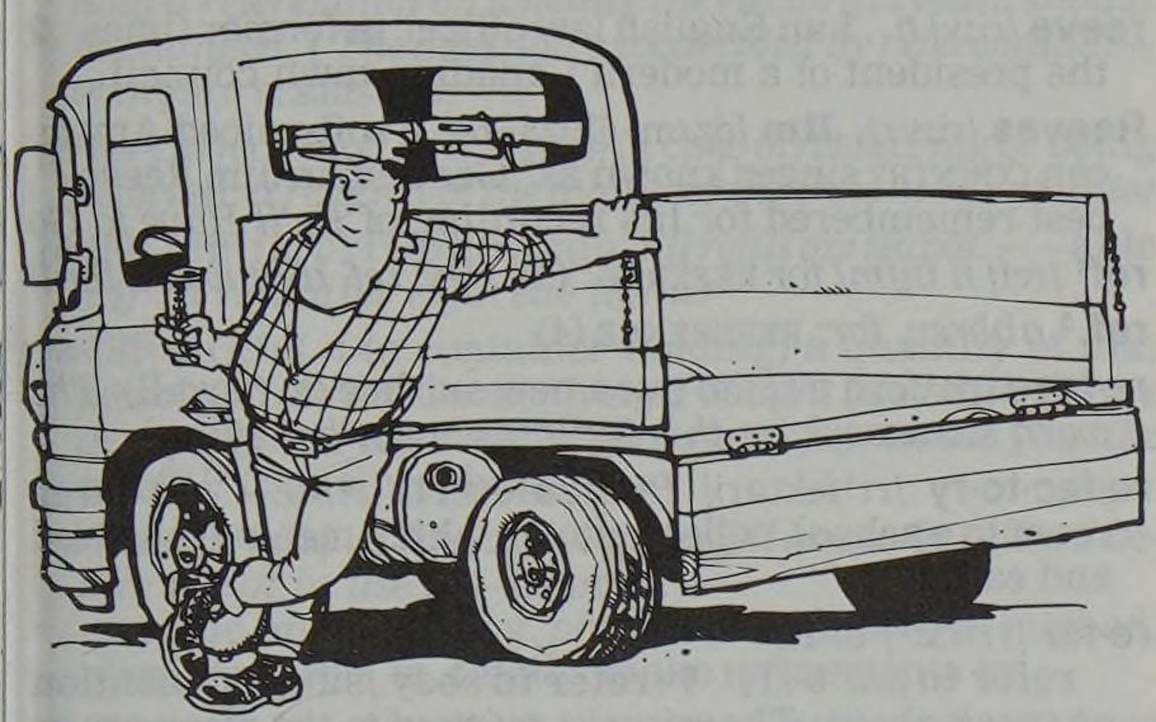
Red Light Green Light /ˌ· · ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] a game played by children in which the leader does not face the other players but calls out "green light" when they are allowed to move towards the finish line and shouts "red light" and turns around when they must stop. If the leader sees anyone moving after he or she has said "red light", that player must go back to the starting line.

Red List /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a government list of dangerous objects: *It is on the Red List of toxic substances dangerous in water.*

red meat /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] meat from four-legged animals, such as BEEF or LAMB¹ (2) —compare WHITE MEAT

red·neck /ˈrednek/ *n infml derog, esp. AmE* a man who lives in a country area, esp. one who is uneducated or poor and has strong, unreasonable opinions

redneck



►CULTURAL NOTE Rednecks are an American STEREOTYPE. People think of them as driving PICK-UP TRUCKS, owning and using guns (esp. RIFLES), having SEXIST and RACIST attitudes, and drinking beer.◄

Red Nose Day /ˌ· ˈ· ˌ·/ *BrE* the day in the year on which activities organized by COMIC RELIEF are carried out to raise money for charities (CHARITY). Many people in Britain wear plastic red noses on this day and some people put large red noses on the front of their cars to show their support. —see also COMIC RELIEF

re·do /riːˈduː/ *v* **-did** /ˈdɪd/, **-done** /ˈdʌn/ [T] to do again: *We redid* (=repainted) *the bathroom in pink.* | *She redid her hair.* | *You'll have to redo this piece of work.*

red·o·lent /ˈredələnt/ *adj* [F+**of**] *fml* **1** smelling of: *The kitchen was redolent of onions.* **2** making one think of; suggesting: *an old house redolent of mystery* —**-lence** *n* [U+**of**]

re·doub·le /riːˈdʌbəl/ *v* [T] to increase (esp. activity) greatly: *The police* **redoubled their efforts** *to find the missing child.*

re·doubt /rɪˈdaʊt/ *n tech* a small fort

re·doub·ta·ble /rɪˈdaʊtəbəl/ *adj lit or humor* deserving to be respected and feared: *a redoubtable opponent*

re·dound /rɪˈdaʊnd/ *v*

redound to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* (of an event or action) to have the effect of increasing (fame, honour, etc.): *Any help you can give us will redound to your credit.* (=make people admire you)

red pep·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** [U] a hot-tasting powder made from the dried red seed cases of a plant of the pepper family (the CAYENNE PEPPER), used for giving taste to food **2** [C] the red fruit of the CAPSICUM plant, used as a vegetable

re·dress[1] /rɪˈdres/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to put right (a wrong, injustice, etc.) **2 redress the balance** to make things equal or fair (again): *Most of the films in this series were directed by men, so in order to redress the balance they are now showing some films by women directors.*

re·dress[2] /rɪˈdres‖ˈriːdres/ *n* [U] *fml* payment for a wrong that has been done; COMPENSATION: *You must* **seek redress** *in the law courts for the damage to your car.*

Red Riding Hood see LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Red River /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*] a long river in the S of the US, which forms part of the border between the states of Oklahoma and Texas. There is a popular American FOLK SONG called *The Red River Valley* which begins: *From this valley they may say you are going ...*

red route /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a road in a city in Britain, esp. London, where all vehicles are forbidden to park. Red routes were introduced in 1991 to speed up the flow of traffic in busy areas.

Red Rum /ˌ· ˈ·/ a famous British race horse

Red Scare /ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the*] an American government action in 1919 and 1920 that deported (DEPORT) foreigners who had recently settled in the US, for fear that they were Communists and would persuade others of the worth of their ideas

Red Sea /ˌ· ˈ·/ [*the*] a sea between NE Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, joined with the Mediterranean Sea (by the Suez Canal) and the Indian Ocean. It is an important passage for many shipping companies. The Bible tells a story of God parting (PART[2] (2)) the Red Sea, allowing Moses and the Jews who had been in Egypt to escape by walking across the sea bed. —see colour picture on page 424

red shift /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U;C] a change in the light pattern given off by stars as they are seen from the Earth, which shows that the stars are moving away, and supporting the BIG BANG THEORY of the universe

Red Shoes /ˌ· ˈ·/, **The** a FAIRY STORY by Hans Andersen in which an ungrateful little girl is punished when she cannot remove her red shoes, and has to dance in them night and day

red·skin /ˈredˌskɪn/ *n old use, now taboo for* NATIVE AMERICAN

Red Square /ˌ· ˈ·/ the large square (=broad, open space in a town) in Moscow, known for its processions on May Day when Moscow was the capital of the USSR

red squir·rel /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* a reddish-brown SQUIRREL which lives in North America and Britain, where it is becoming rare

Red Star /ˌ· ˈ·/ a British parcel and letter delivery service which uses trains to transport the parcels and letters

red tape /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] *derog* silly detailed unnecessary official rules that delay action: *It took a long time to* **cut through the red tape** *of the planning regulations and get the building started.*

re·duce /rɪˈdjuːs‖rɪˈduːs/ *v* **1** [T (**from, to**)] to make less in size, amount, price, degree, etc.: *a promise to reduce taxes* | *a defence policy that reduces the risk of war* | *I bought this shirt because it was reduced (from £12 to £6).* | *He won't reduce the rent of our house.* | *Reduce the sauce by boiling it for ten minutes.* | *The plague reduced the population to half its previous level.* —compare INCREASE; see also REDUCTION **2** [T] *old use* to defeat and take control of (a place): *By constant bombardment we reduced the citadel.* **3** [I] *esp AmE* lose weight: *The doctor told me I had to reduce.* | *She won't eat any dessert, she's reducing.* —**reducible** *adj*

reduce sbdy./sthg. **to** sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to change (something) to (its parts): *We can reduce the report to three main points.* | *The explosion reduced the house to rubble.* **2** [*usu. pass.*] to bring or force (someone) to (esp. a weaker or less favourable state): *His extraordinary reply reduced me to silence.* | *The captain was* **reduced to the ranks** (=made an ordinary soldier) *for his disobedience.* | *The child was* **reduced to tears**. (=made to cry) [+*v-ing*] *She was reduced to begging for a living.*

reduced cir·cum·stanc·es /ˌ·ˌ· ˈ····/ *n* [P] *old-fash euph* a poorer way of life than one formerly had: *living in reduced circumstances*

re·duc·ti·o ad ab·sur·dum /rɪˌdʌktiəʊ æd əbˈsɜːdəm‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U] *Lat* the disproof of a piece of reasoning by showing that it must lead in the end to a silly or unacceptable result

re·duc·tion /rɪˈdʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U (**in**)] (a case of) making or becoming smaller; the amount taken off in reducing something: *some reduction|a slight reduction in the price of food* | *price reductions* —compare INCREASE **2** [C] a smaller copy of a picture, map, or photograph —opposite **enlargement**

re·dun·dan·cy /rɪˈdʌndənsi/ *n* **1** [C;U] *BrE* (a case of) being made redundant: *The closure of the export department led to a lot of redundancy|led to over 200 redundancies.* **2** [C;U] *fml or tech* (esp. of words) (a case of) being REDUNDANT (2) **3** [U] *tech* (of something made up of many parts) the quality of containing additional parts that will make the system work if other parts fail: *the redundancy of the English language|of computerized systems*

redundancy pay·ment /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ *BrE*‖**severance pay** *AmE*— *n* a sum of money given by an employer to a worker who is being made redundant. In Britain the amount is usually calculated according to how long the person has worked for the employer. There is a legal MINIMUM redundancy payment for workers who have worked continuously for the same employer for two years.

re·dun·dant /rɪˈdʌndənt/ *adj* **1** *BrE* (of a worker) no longer employed because there is not enough work: *Seventy men at the factory were* **made redundant** *because of falling demand for our products.* **2** not needed; more than is necessary: *In the sentence "She lives alone by herself", the*

word "alone" is redundant. | *redundant information/machine parts* —~**ly** *adv*

re·du·pli·cate /rɪ'dju:plɨkeɪt‖rɪ'du:-/ *v* [T] *fml* to make or do again; repeat —**-cation** /rɪˌdju:plɨ'keɪʃən‖rɪˌdu:-/ *n* [U]

red·wood /'redwʊd/ also **sequoia**— *n* a CONIFEROUS tree that grows in California. Redwoods attract many tourists because they can grow to more than 100 metres high, and live for many hundreds of years. They are also important for their wood.

Ree·bok /'ri:bɒk‖-bɑ:k/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a kind of expensive and fashionable sports shoe —see PAIR (USAGE)

re·ech·o /ri:'ekəʊ/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) be repeated again and again as an ECHO: *Their cries echoed and reechoed among the lonely hills.*

reed /ri:d/ *n* **1** a grasslike plant that grows in wet places: *a roof made of dried reeds* **2** a thin piece of wood or metal in a musical instrument that produces sound by shaking (VIBRATION) when air is blown over it: **reed instruments** *such as the oboe and bassoon*

Reed, Sir Carol (1906–1976) an English film DIRECTOR, best known for the film *The Third Man*

Reed In·ter·na·tion·al /ˌ· ··'···/ a British company that produces books, magazines, newspapers, travel industry information etc.

re·ed·u·cate /ri:'edjʊkeɪt‖-dʒə-/ *v* [T] to train or educate (someone) again: *We should reeducate young criminals (to take their place in society).* —**-cation** /ˌri:edjʊ'keɪʃən‖-dʒə-/ *n* [U]

reed·y /'ri:di/ *adj* **1** (of a sound) thin and high: *a reedy voice* **2** (of a place) full of REEDS (1): *a reedy lake* —**-iness** *n* [U]

reef[1] /ri:f/ *n* a line of sharp rocks, often made of CORAL, or a bank of sand on or near the surface of the sea: *The ship was wrecked on a reef.*

reef[2] *v* [T] *naut* to tie up (part of a sail) so as to make it smaller

reef[3] *n naut* a reduction in the area of a sail made by reefing

ree·fer /'ri:fəʳ/ *n old-fash infml* a cigarette containing the drug MARIJUANA

reefer jack·et /'·· ˌ··/ *n BrE* a man's short close-fitting coat made of thick material

reef knot /'· ·/ *esp. BrE* ‖ usu. **square knot** *AmE*— *n* a double knot that will not come undone easily

reek[1] /ri:k/ *n* [S] **1** a strong unpleasant smell: *a reek of tobacco and beer* **2** *lit or ScotE* a thick smoke

reek[2] *v* [I] **1** [(**of, with**)] to smell strongly and unpleasantly: *His breath reeks of onions.* | (fig.) *That whole transaction reeks of/with dishonesty.* **2** *dial* to give out smoke: *a reeking chimney*

reel[1] /ri:l/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **spool** *AmE*— a round object on which a length of sewing thread, wire, fishing line, recording TAPE[1] (2a), etc., can be wound —compare BOBBIN **2** [(**of**)] the amount that any of these will hold: *two whole reels of cotton* **3** one of several parts of a cinema film contained on a reel: *They get married at the end of the eighth reel.*

reel[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to bring, take, etc. by winding: *He reeled in his fishing line.* | *Reel some more thread off the machine.*

reel sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] *infml* to repeat (usu. a lot of information) quickly and easily from memory; RATTLE **off**: *He could reel off the dates of all the kings of England.*

reel[3] *v* [I] **1** [+*adv*/*prep*] to walk unsteadily, moving from side to side, as if drunk: *He came reeling up the street.* **2** [(BACK)] to step away suddenly and unsteadily (as if) after being hit or receiving a shock: *When I hit him he reeled (back) and almost fell.* **3** to be in a state of shock, confusion, or uncertainty: *All these statistics make my head reel.* | *The party is still reeling from its recent election defeat.* **4** to seem to go round and round: *The room reeled before my eyes and I became unconscious.*

reel[4] *n* (the music for) a quick cheerful Scottish or Irish dance

re·e·lect /ˌri:ɨ'lekt/ *v* [T] to elect again: *He has been reelected to Parliament.* —~**ion** /'lekʃən/ *n* [C;U] : *She is seeking reelection for a third term of office.*

re·en·try /ri:'entri/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) entering again: *The spacecraft made a successful reentry into the Earth's atmosphere.*

Reese's Pea·nut But·ter Cup /ˌri:sɨz ˌpi:nʌt bʌtə 'kʌp‖-bʌtər-/ *n tdmk* a round CANDY made of chocolate and sweet PEANUT BUTTER

reeve /ri:v/ *n* **1** an English law officer in former times **2** the president of a modern Canadian town council

Reeves /ri:vz/, **Jim** /dʒɪm/ (1923–64) a soft-voiced American COUNTRY singer known as "Gentleman Jim Reeves", best remembered for his recording of *He'll Have to Go*

ref[1] /ref/ *n infml for* REFEREE[1] (1): *Hey, ref, that was a foul!*

ref.[2] *abbrev. for:* REFERENCE (4)

re·face /ri:'feɪs/ *v* [T] to put a new surface on (a wall): *The worn stonework on this building must be refaced.*

re·fec·to·ry /rɪ'fektəri/ *BrE*‖**cafeteria** *AmE*— *n* a large room in a school, college, etc. in which meals are served and eaten

re·fer /rɪ'fɜ:ʳ/ *v* **-rr-**

refer to *phr v* [T] **1** (**refer to** sbdy./sthg.) to mention or speak about: *The scientist referred to the discovery as the most exciting new development in this field.* | *Which companies was she referring to when she spoke of competing firms?* | *The figures in the left-hand column refer to our overseas sales.* **2** (**refer to** sthg.) to look at for information: *to refer to a dictionary* | *Let me just refer to my notes to find the exact figures.* **3** (**refer to** sbdy./sthg.) to concern; be directed towards or be RELEVANT to: *The new law does not refer to land used for farming.* **4** (**refer** sbdy./sthg. **to** sbdy.) to send or direct to (another place or person) for information, decision, or action: *The shop referred the complaint (back) to the makers of the articles.* | *The professor referred me to an article she had written on this subject.* | *The proposal will have to be referred to the Finance Committee.* —see also CROSS-REFER — ~**able to** *adj*

ref·er·ee[1] /ˌrefə'ri:/ *n* **1** a judge in charge of some games **2** *BrE for* REFERENCE (3b) **3** a person who is asked to settle a disagreement

▷ USAGE **Referee** is used in connection with **basketball, boxing, football, hockey, lacrosse, rugby, snooker, squash,** and **wrestling. Umpire** is used in connection with **badminton, baseball, cricket, swimming, tennis**, and **volleyball.**◁

referee[2] *v* [I;T] to act as referee for (a game): *Who's going to referee (the football match)?*

ref·er·ence /'refərəns/ *n* **1** [C;U (**to**)] (an example of) mentioning: *When I spoke to him about the expedition, he didn't make any reference to* (=mention) *your coming with us.* | *King William II was known as "Rufus", a reference to his* (=because he had) *red hair.* | *Her speech contained only a* **passing reference** *to* (=a quick mention of) *the problem of unemployment.* **2** [C;U (**to**)] (an example of) looking at something for information: *Use this dictionary for easy reference.* **3** [C] **a** a piece of written information about someone's character, ability, etc., esp. when they are looking for employment: *We will need to have references from your former employers.* | *We will lend you the money if you can provide a* **banker's reference**. (=a note from the bank to say that you are a trustworthy customer) **b** a person who provides such information: *Ask your teacher to act as one of your references.* **4** [C] something that tells a reader where the information came from that is used in a piece of writing: *a list of references at the end of the article* **5 in/with reference to** *fml* in connection with; about: *With reference to your recent letter, I am instructed to inform you* ... —see also CROSS-REFERENCE, FRAME OF REFERENCE, TERMS OF REFERENCE

▷ USAGE A **testimonial** is usually shown to the person it describes, or made public. A **reference** is not usually shown to the person, and may be negative. A **recommendation** is more informal, not always written, usually positive, and made known to the person it describes.◁

reference book /'··· ·/ *n* a book, such as a dictionary, that is looked at when one needs information rather than read from beginning to end

reference li·bra·ry /'··· ˌ···/ *n* a collection of books that cannot be taken away but must be studied in the place where they are kept

ref·e·ren·dum /ˌrefə'rendəm/ *n* **-da** /də/ *or* **-dums** [C;U] a direct vote by all the people to decide about something on which there is strong disagreement, instead of the government making the decision. Referendums are legal in Britain but are very rarely used. In the US there is

rarely a national referendum, but states hold them regularly, usu. at the same time as other elections, to test public opinion on sensitive matters: *The government will hold a referendum on whether the electoral system should be changed.* | *The question was decided by referendum.* – compare PLEBISCITE

re·fer·ral /rɪ'fɜːrəl/ *n* [C;U (**to**)] (a case of) referring or being referred: *a referral of the matter to the Finance Committee*

re·fill[1] /ˌriː'fɪl/ *v* [T] to fill again: *I'll refill my teapot.* – **~able** *adj* : *a refillable cigarette lighter*

re·fill[2] /'riːfɪl/ *n* (a container holding) a quantity of ink, petrol, etc., to refill something: *I bought two refills for my pen.* | *(infml) I can see your glass is empty; would you like a refill?* (=another drink)

re·fine /rɪ'faɪn/ *v* [T] to make pure: *Oil has to be refined before it can be used.* –**finer** *n*

refine on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] to improve (a method, plan, etc.), esp. in details; make refinements to

re·fined /rɪ'faɪnd/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] made pure: *refined oil/sugar* **2** *sometimes derog* (of a person or their behaviour) showing, or intending to show education, delicate feeling, and gentleness of manners; GENTEEL: *a refined way of speaking* | *She's so refined that she always eats cake with a little fork.* –opposite **unrefined**

re·fine·ment /rɪ'faɪnmənt/ *n* **1** [C (**on**)] an addition or improvement to an existing product, system, etc.: *The new car has many added refinements such as air-conditioning and anti-locking brakes.* **2** [U] the process of making something pure: *the refinement of sugar* **3** [U] the quality of being REFINED (2): *a woman of great refinement*

re·fin·e·ry /rɪ'faɪnəri/ *n* a building and apparatus for refining metals, oil, sugar, etc.: *a sugar refinery*

re·fit[1] /ˌriː'fɪt/ *v* **-tt-** [I;T] **a** (esp. of a ship) to be made ready for further use: *We sailed into port to refit.* **b** to make (esp. a ship) ready for further use, e.g. by doing repairs and putting in new machinery

re·fit[2] /'riːfɪt/ *n* [C;U] the process of being refitted: *The yacht needs a refit/is under refit.*

re·flate /riː'fleɪt/ *v* [I;T] to increase the supply of money in (a money system) to a former or desirable level

re·fla·tion /riː'fleɪʃən/ *n* [U] a POLICY of increasing the amount of money being used in a country, usu. leading to more demand for goods and more industrial activity –compare DEFLATION, INFLATION – **~ary** *adj*

re·flect /rɪ'flekt/ *v* **1** [T] to throw back (heat, light, sound, or an image): *The mirror reflects my face.* | *The mountains were reflected in the lake.* **2** [T *not usu. in progressive forms*] to express, make clear, or be a sign of; show: *His behaviour reflects his lazy attitude to work.* | *The low value of the dollar reflects growing concern about the US economy.* | *Concern about the economy is reflected in the low value of the dollar.* [+*wh-*] *Does this letter reflect what you really think?* **3** [I (**on**)] to think carefully: *After reflecting for a time (on the problem) he decided not to go.*

reflect on/upon *phr v* [T] **1** (**reflect on** sbdy./sthg.) (of an action or event) to cause to be seen or considered in a particular, usu. unfavourable, way: *The unemployment figures reflect badly on the government's policies.* | *an incident that reflects on* (=causes doubts about) *their honesty* **2** (**reflect** sthg. **on** sbdy./sthg.) (of an action or event) to bring (CREDIT[1] (5) or DISCREDIT[2]) on: *Their prompt action in the emergency reflects great credit on them.*

reflecting tel·e·scope /·'·· ˌ···/ *n* a TELESCOPE (=an instrument for seeing distant objects) in which the image is reflected in a mirror and made bigger –compare REFRACTING TELESCOPE

re·flec·tion /rɪ'flekʃən/ *n* **1** [C] an image reflected in a mirror or similar surface: *We looked at our reflections in the lake.* **2** [U] the reflecting of heat, light, sound, or an image: *The moon looks bright because of the reflection of light.* **3** [C;U (**on**)] (an idea or statement resulting from) deep and careful thought: *It was interesting to hear her reflections on Indian politics.* | *At first I thought it was a bad idea, but* **on reflection** *I realized she was right.* **4** [C (**of**)] something that shows the effects of, or is a sign of, a particular condition, situation, etc.: *The rising rate of crime is a reflection of an unstable society.* | *Do you think this opinion is an accurate reflection of the public mood?* **5** [S+**on**] disapproval or an unfavourable judgment, esp. expressed in an indirect way; CRITICISM: *The fact that we're dismissing you is no reflection on the quality of your work – we simply can't afford to employ you any more.*

re·flec·tive /rɪ'flektɪv/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a person) thoughtful **2** (of clothing or a material) reflecting light: *The cyclist wore a reflective belt/waistcoat so that cars could see her more easily at night.*

re·flec·tor /rɪ'flektəʳ/ *n* a surface that reflects light. Reflectors are often worn or carried for safety reasons by people riding bicycles or walking at night, so that they will be seen by the drivers of vehicles with HEADLIGHTS –see picture at BICYCLE

re·flex /'riːfleks/ *n* an unintentional movement that is made in reply to some outside influence: *The doctor hit my knee with a hammer to test my reflexes.* | *I can't help shivering when I'm cold – it's a* **reflex action**. –see also CONDITIONED REFLEX

re·flex·ive /rɪ'fleksɪv/ *n, adj tech* (a word) showing that the action in the sentence has its effect on the person or thing that does the action: *In "I enjoyed myself", "enjoy" is a reflexive/is a* **reflexive verb**, *and the pronoun "myself" is a* **reflexive pronoun.**

re·flex·ol·o·gy /ˌriːflek'sɒlədʒi‖-'sɑː-/ *n* [U] a kind of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE, in which particular areas of the feet and hands are touched in order to help certain medical conditions

re·for·est /riː'fɒrɨst‖-'fɔː-, -'fɑː-/ *v* [T] *esp. AmE for* REAFFOREST – **~ation** /riːˌfɒrɨ'steɪʃən‖-ˌfɔː-, -ˌfɑː-/ *n* [U]

re·form[1] /rɪ'fɔːm‖-ɔːrm/ *v* [I;T] to improve, e.g. by changing behaviour or by removing undesirable qualities: *a plan to reform the tax system and make it simpler and fairer* | *Harry has completely reformed/is a completely* **reformed character** *now – he's stopped taking drugs.* – **~er** *n* : *a famous social reformer*

reform[2] *n* [C;U] (a) change made, esp. to a system or organization, that is intended to improve it, remove unfairness, etc.: *The President has proposed* **sweeping** (=very big) **reforms** *of the tax system.* | *a programme of social/economic/educational reform*

re-form /ˌriː'fɔːm‖-ɔːrm/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) form again, esp. into ranks: *The army re-formed, ready to attack again.*

ref·or·ma·tion /ˌrefə'meɪʃən‖-fər-/ *n* [C;U] (an) improvement; the act of reforming or state of being reformed: *a complete reformation in his character*

Reformation [*the*] the religious movement in Europe in the 16th century leading to the establishment of the Protestant churches

re·for·ma·to·ry[1] /rɪ'fɔːmətəri‖rɪ'fɔːrmətɔːri/ also **reform school**– *n old use or AmE for* COMMUNITY HOME

reformatory[2] also **re·for·ma·tive** /rɪ'fɔːmətɪv‖-'fɔːr-/– *adj fml* intended to produce reform

Reform Club /·'· ·/ [*the*] (in Britain) a gentleman's CLUB[1] (3) in Pall Mall, London, which has a strong association with the Liberal Party

re·form·ist /rɪ'fɔːmɨst‖-ɔːr-/ *adj, n* (a person) in favour of, or suggesting (esp. political) REFORM

reform school /·'· ·/ *n AmE for* COMMUNITY HOME

re·fract /rɪ'frækt/ *v* [T] (of water, glass, etc.) to cause (light) to change direction when passing through at an angle – **~ion** /rɪ'frækʃən/ *n* [U] : *Refraction makes a straight stick look bent if it is partly in water.*

refracting tel·e·scope /·'·· ˌ···/ *n* a TELESCOPE (=an instrument for seeing distant objects) in which the image is refracted by passing through a LENS (a piece of glass) – compare REFLECTING TELESCOPE

re·frac·to·ry /rɪ'fræktəri/ *adj fml derog* disobedient and troublesome: *a refractory horse*

re·frain[1] /rɪ'freɪn/ *v* [I (**from**)] *fml* to hold oneself back from doing something; not do: *Please refrain from smoking.*

refrain[2] *n* **1** a part of a song that is repeated, esp. at the end of each VERSE **2** *often derog* a remark or idea that is often repeated: *Our proposal met with the familiar refrain that the company could not afford such a big investment.*

re·fresh /rɪ'freʃ/ *v* **1** [T] to make less hot or tired; bring back strength and freshness to: *A hot bath will refresh you.* | *He refreshed himself with a glass of beer.* **2** [I;T] (of computer OUTPUT) to provide again; UPDATE: *This display will not refresh (itself) till you repeat the command.*

3 refresh one's memory to cause oneself to remember

again: *I looked at the map to refresh my memory of the route.* **4 refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach** a phrase used in advertisements for Heineken LAGER, now often used humorously

re·fresh·er course /·'·· ·/ *n* a training course given to bring someone's knowledge up to date, esp. knowledge needed for a job: *They're holding/attending a refresher course on modern teaching methods.*

re·fresh·ing /rɪ'freʃɪŋ/ *adj apprec* **1** producing a feeling of comfort and new strength: *a very refreshing sleep* **2** pleasantly new and interesting: *It's refreshing to see a film that isn't full of sex and violence.* —~**ly** *adv*

re·fresh·ment /rɪ'freʃmənt/ *n* [U] **1** (the experience of) being refreshed **2** food and drink: *We worked all day without refreshment.*

re·fresh·ments /rɪ'freʃmənts/ *n* [P] food and drinks served as a light meal: *Refreshments will be served after the meeting.*

re·fried beans /'riːfraɪd 'biːnz/ *n* [P] PINTO BEANS which have been boiled and then crushed and fried (FRY), often with onions; usu. eaten with Mexican food

re·fri·ge·rant /rɪ'frɪdʒərənt/ *n* a substance that is used to refrigerate, such as solid CARBON DIOXIDE

re·fri·ge·rate /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪt/ *v* [T] to make (food, liquid, etc.) cold as a way of preserving it: *refrigerated meat* —**-ration** /rɪˌfrɪdʒə'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *The meat was kept under refrigeration.*

re·fri·ge·ra·tor /rɪ'frɪdʒəreɪtəʳ/ *n BrE fml or AmE for* FRIDGE —see picture at KITCHEN

refrigerator-freez·er /·ˌ···· '··/ *n BrE fml & AmE for* FRIDGE-FREEZER

re·fuel /ˌriː'fjʊəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [I;T] to (cause to) fill up again with FUEL: *The aircraft refuelled/They refuelled the aircraft at Cairo.* | *a refuelling stop*

ref·uge /'refjuːdʒ/ *n* [C;U (**from**)] (a place that provides) protection or shelter from danger: *a mountain refuge for climbers* | *The political dissidents* **sought/took refuge** *abroad.*

ref·u·gee /ˌrefjʊ'dʒiː/ *n* someone who has been forced to leave their country for political reasons or during a war. Refugees are becoming a political problem in many European countries. Some governments think that many people wanting to become refugees are coming to Europe for economic reasons, and not for their personal safety.

re·ful·gent /rɪ'fʌldʒənt‖rɪ'fʊl-/ *adj lit* (of light) very bright; BRILLIANT —**-gence** *n* [U]

re·fund[1] /'riːfʌnd/ *n* a repayment; a sum of money refunded: *She took the faulty radio back to the shop and demanded a refund.* | *(esp. AmE) a tax refund*

re·fund[2] /rɪ'fʌnd/ *v* [T (**to**)] to give (money) in repayment, in return for loss or damage, in order to balance accounts, etc.: *They refunded the cost of the damaged book.* [*+obj(i)+obj(d)*] *They refunded us our money when the play was cancelled.* —compare REIMBURSE

re·fur·bish /ˌriː'fɜːbɪʃ‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [T] to make bright, clean and fresh again: *to refurbish an old theatre* | (fig.) *He's going to Paris to refurbish his French.* —~**ment** *n* [U]

re·fus·al /rɪ'fjuːzəl/ *n* [C;U] (a case of) refusing: *My offer met with* (=was answered with) *a cold/a polite refusal.* [*+to-v*] *Their refusal to negotiate with us made progress impossible.* —see also FIRST REFUSAL

re·fuse[1] /rɪ'fjuːz/ *v* **1** [I;T] to state one's strong unwillingness to accept; say no (to): *He asked her to marry him but she refused.* | *She refused his offer.* **2** [T+*obj(i)+obj(d)*] to not give or allow: *We were refused entry/refused permission to enter.* **3** [T+*to-v*; *obj*] to show or state strong unwillingness (to do something): *She* **flatly refused** *to have anything to do with the plan.* | *The engine refused to start.* | *I told him to come back but he refused to.* | *I refuse to answer that question.*

▷ USAGE 1 **Refuse**, **decline**, **reject**, and **turn down** all mean that you do not do something that you are asked to do (opposite **agree to**), or do not take something that you are offered (opposite **accept**). You can **refuse** or **decline** an invitation; **refuse** permission; **decline**, **reject**, or **turn down** a suggestion; **refuse**, **decline**, **reject**, or **turn down** an offer; **reject** or **turn down** a plan or proposal. 2 **Decline** is more polite than **refuse** and not so firm. Compare *I'm afraid I must* **decline** *your invitation*/**decline** *to answer that question* and *The prisoner* **refused** *to give his name.* 3 You must **decline** in words: *The horse* **refused** (not **declined**) *to jump the fence.* You need not **reject** or **refuse** something in words: *The horse* **rejected/refused** *the apple.*◁

ref·use[2] /'refjuːs/ *n* [U] *fml* waste material; RUBBISH: *a heap of kitchen refuse* | *a* **refuse dump** (=where a town's waste material is put)

re·fuse·nik /rɪ'fjuːznɪk/ *n* a Jew in the former USSR who has been refused permission to EMIGRATE, especially to Israel

refuse work·er /'·· ˌ··/ *n BrE fml or euph* a DUSTMAN

re·fute /rɪ'fjuːt/ *v* [T] to prove that (someone or something) is mistaken or incorrect: *I was able to refute him/his argument.* | *to refute the proposition that the world is flat* —**refutation** /ˌrefjʊ'teɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

▷ USAGE **Refute** is often used simply with the meaning "say (not prove) that an argument or statement is mistaken": *I* **refute** *the allegation entirely.* But some people think this is bad English.◁

re·gain /rɪ'geɪn/ *v* [T] **1** to get or win back: *The football club regained the trophy it had lost the previous year.* | *She is slowly regaining her strength/confidence after the accident.* | *She was unable to regain her balance, and she fell off the wall.* | *The government is fighting to regain control of the rebel-held areas.* **2** *lit* to reach (a place) again: *Shall we regain the shore alive?*

re·gal /'riːgəl/ *adj fml apprec* very splendid; of, like, or suitable for a king or queen: *regal manners* | *a regal old lady* —compare ROYAL[1] (1) —~**ly** *adv* : *We were regally entertained.*

re·gale /rɪ'geɪl/ *v*

regale sbdy. **with** sthg. *phr v* [T] to entertain with: *He regaled us with some stories about his youth.*

re·ga·li·a /rɪ'geɪliə/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] ceremonial clothes and decorations, esp. those used on official occasions: *royal regalia* | *a mayor's regalia*

re·gard[1] /rɪ'gɑːd‖-ɑːrd/ *n* [U] *usu. fml* **1** respect; ESTEEM: *I hold her in high/low/the greatest regard.* **2** [+**for, to**] respectful attention; consideration: *You have no regard for my feelings!* | *The report pays little regard/scant regard to the facts of the case.* **3** connection or relation (in phrases like **in this regard, with regard to**): *The company is owned by its staff, and in that regard it is rather unusual.* | *With regard to your recent application, I am afraid we are unable to offer you the job.* **4** *lit* a long look without moving one's eyes —see also REGARDS

regard[2] *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** [+*obj+adv/prep*] to consider in the stated way: *I have always regarded him highly/with the greatest admiration.* | *She is generally regarded as one of the best writers in the country.* | *We regard these developments with grave concern.* **2** [+*obj+adv/prep*] *fml* to look at in the stated way: *She regarded him thoughtfully/with suspicion.* **3** [*usu. negative*] *fml* to pay attention to (thoughts, ideas, etc.): *If you fail to regard my warning, you may be sorry.*

re·gard·ful /rɪ'gɑːdfəl‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* [F+**of**] *fml* full of respectful attention

re·gard·ing /rɪ'gɑːdɪŋ‖-ɑːr-/ also **as regards, re** — *prep fml* (esp. in business letters) on the subject of; in connection with; concerning: *Regarding your recent inquiry ...* .

re·gard·less /rɪ'gɑːdləs‖-ɑːr-/ *adv* **1** *infml* in spite of everything: *They knew it was too expensive, but they went ahead regardless and bought it.* **2 regardless of** without worrying about or taking account of: *They decorated the house regardless of cost.* | *All our proposals were rejected, regardless of their merits.* —compare IRRESPECTIVE

re·gards /rɪ'gɑːdz‖-ɑːr-/ *n* [P] **1** good wishes: *Give him my (best) regards.* **2 with kind/best/warm regards** (a friendly but rather formal way of ending a letter)

re·gat·ta /rɪ'gætə/ *n* a meeting for races between rowing or sailing boats

re·gen·cy /'riːdʒənsi/ *n* [C;U] (a period of) government by a regent

Regency[1] *adj* of the British style (in buildings, furniture, etc.) of the period 1811–1830: *a graceful Regency chair*

Regency[2] [*the*] the period of British history between 1811 and 1820, when the Prince Regent acted as king —see also PRINCE REGENT

re·gen·e·rate /rɪ'dʒenəreɪt/ *v* [I;T] to give or obtain new life;

form, grow again: *This creature's tail will regenerate if it is cut off.* —see also UNREGENERATE —**-ration** /rɪˌdʒenəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *the regeneration of agriculture after the war*

re·gent /ˈriːdʒənt/ *n* (*often cap.*) a person who governs in place of a king or ruling queen who is ill, absent, or still a child —**regent** *adj* [after *n*] : *the Prince Regent*

Regent Street /ˈ·· ˌ·/ a street in the WEST END of London which runs between Oxford Circus and Piccadilly Circus and is a popular place for shopping.

Regent's Park /ˌ·· ˈ·/ a park in NW London, open to the public. It is the home of London Zoo and has an open-air theatre where Shakespeare plays are performed in the summer. —see colour map on page 817

reg·gae /ˈregeɪ/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) a kind of popular music from the West Indies with a strong regular beat, which developed in Jamaica in the 1960s. The songs often have a political message or are about Rastafarianism (RASTAFARIAN). The best known, most successful reggae singer was Bob Marley.

re·gi·cide /ˈredʒɪsaɪd/ *n* **1** [U] the crime of killing a king or queen **2** [C] a person who does this

re·gime /reɪˈʒiːm/ *n* **1** *often derog* a particular (system of) government: *a fascist/military regime | Things will change under the new regime.* **2** a regimen

re·gi·men /ˈredʒɪmɪn/ *n fml* a fixed plan of food, exercise, etc., in order to improve one's health: *I followed a strict regimen. | the daily regimen of a ballet dancer*

re·gi·ment[1] /ˈredʒɪmənt/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] **1** a large military group, commanded by a COLONEL: *a cavalry regiment* **2** [**(of)**] a very large number of living creatures: *a whole regiment of ants*

re·gi·ment[2] /ˈredʒɪment/ *v* [T *often pass.*] *derog* to control (people) firmly, forcing them to obey orders: *Modern children don't like being regimented. | a regimented society* —~**ation** /ˌredʒɪmenˈteɪʃən‖-mən-/ *n* [U]

re·gi·ment·al /ˌredʒɪˈmentl◂/ *adj* of a regiment: *the regimental band*

re·gi·ment·als /ˌredʒɪˈmentlz/ *n* [P] the uniform of a particular regiment: *an officer in full regimentals*

Re·gi·na /rɪˈdʒaɪnə/ *n Lat* **1** [after *n*] (the title used in official writing after the name of a ruling British queen): *Elizabeth Regina* **2** *law* (used, when a queen is ruling, in titles of British law cases) the governing power of the State: *in the action Regina v Smith* (=the state against Smith) —compare REX

re·gion /ˈriːdʒən/ *n* **1** a particular fairly large area or part, usu. without exact limits: *the southern region of England | a tropical region | a pain in the region of the heart | America's main ally in this region* —see AREA (USAGE) **2** a local government division of Scotland. There are nine mainland regions: Borders, Central, Dumfries and Galloway, Fife, Grampian, Highland, Lothian, Strathclyde, and Tayside, and three island regions: Orkney, Shetland, and Western Isles. —compare COUNTY[1] **3 in the region of** about: *It will cost (somewhere) in the region of $500.*

re·gion·al /ˈriːdʒənəl/ *adj* of or in a particular region: *the regional authorities | a regional accent | regional differences in temperature* —~**ly** *adv*

re·gions /ˈriːdʒənz/ *n* [*the*+P] eight areas into which Britain is divided, mainly for statistical (STATISTICS) purposes. The regions are South East, East Anglia, South West, West Midlands, East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, North West, and North. The regions play no part in local government.

re·gis·ter[1] /ˈredʒɪstəʳ/ *n* **1** [C] (a book containing) an official record or list: *By law we are required to keep a register of births and deaths. | a school attendance register | The* **electoral register** *lists everyone who is entitled to vote.* —see also CASH REGISTER **2** the book kept in a church or REGISTRY OFFICE, which a man and woman sign at the end of their marriage ceremony **3** [C] *tech* the range of a human voice or musical instrument: *That note is outside my register/is in the upper register of this instrument.* **4** [C;U] *tech* the words, style, and grammar used by speakers and writers in particular conditions: *Official documents are written in (a) formal register.* **5** *AmE* a movable metal plate that controls the flow of air in a heating or cooling (COOL[2] (1)) system

register[2] *v* **1** [T] to put into an official list or record: *Have you registered the birth of your baby? | The car is registered in my name. | registered voters* **2** [I] **a** to enter one's name on a list: *Newly arrived guests must register at the hotel's reception desk. | He went to register as unemployed.* **b** to join officially: *Students must register before they attend classes.* **3** [T] *fml* (of a machine or instrument) to show; record: *The thermometer registered 35°C.* **4** [T] *fml* (of a person or face) to express (a feeling): *She/Her face registered anxiety/surprise.* **5** [T] *fml* to state officially and cause to be recorded: *I wish to register my total opposition to these proposals.* **6** [T] to send by REGISTERED POST: *You'd better register this parcel. | a registered letter* **7** [I *usu. negative*] *infml* to have an effect (on a person); be noticed or remembered: *She told me her name but I'm afraid it didn't register.* (=I have forgotten it)

registered dis·a·bled /ˌ··· ·ˈ··/ *adj BrE* on a local authority list of HANDICAPPED people. People who are registered disabled may be given special financial or other help by the government.

Registered Gen·e·ral Nurse /ˌ··· ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n* (in Britain) a fully-trained person who is officially allowed to practise as a nurse —compare STATE ENROLLED NURSE, STATE REGISTERED NURSE

Registered Nurse /ˌ··· ˈ·/ also **RN** *abbrev.*— *n* (in the US) a fully-trained person who is officially allowed to practise as a nurse

registered of·fice /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n* the office of a company to which all letters and notices must be addressed. Every British company must have a registered office, even if it is not based in Britain.

registered post /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **registered mail** *AmE*— *n* [U] a postal service which, for an additional charge, protects the sender of a valuable letter or parcel against loss

register of·fice /ˈ··· ˌ··/ *n* a REGISTRY OFFICE

re·gis·trar /ˌredʒɪˈstrɑːʳ◂‖ˈredʒɪstrɑːr/ *n* **1** a person who is in charge of official records, e.g. in a REGISTRY OFFICE or a college **2** a British hospital doctor who has finished his/her training but is of a lower rank than a CONSULTANT (2)

re·gis·tra·tion /ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of registering: *The registration of students for the course will begin on Thursday morning. | (BrE) My car is a C registration.* (=was registered in 1985-6) **2** [C] a person or thing that is registered

registration doc·u·ment /··ˈ·· ˌ···/ *BrE* ‖ **registration** *AmE*— *n* an official piece of paper containing details about a motor vehicle and naming its owner: *The registration's in the glove box, in case you get stopped by the police.*

registration num·ber /··ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* **1** a number that is connected with a particular registration (2): *We can't find your name without your registration number.* **2** *BrE* the official set of numbers and letters that must be shown on the front and back of a motor vehicle (on the vehicle's NUMBERPLATE)

registration plate /··ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n AustrE, NZE for* NUMBERPLATE

re·gis·try /ˈredʒɪstri/ *n* a place where records are kept

registry of·fice /ˈ··· ˌ··/ also **register office**— *n* (esp. in Britain) an office where marriages can legally take place and where births, marriages, and deaths are officially recorded. Many people who do not want a church wedding get married in a registry office instead, esp. if they want the wedding to be a small, private event. Practising Christians usu. get married in a church.

reg·nant /ˈregnənt/ *adj* [after *n*] *fml or tech* ruling, esp. (of a queen) in her own right and not as the wife of a king: *queen regnant*

re·gress /rɪˈgres/ *v* [I] *fml or tech* to go back to a former and usu. worse or less developed condition, way of behaving, etc.: *For a while the boy's disturbed behaviour seemed to be improving, but he regressed when his parents divorced.* —compare PROGRESS[2] (2) —~**ion** /rɪˈgreʃən/ *n* [U] : *Most people show signs of regression* (=losing memory, sight, etc.) *when they grow old.*

re·gres·sive /rɪˈgresɪv/ *adj fml or tech* tending to regress or showing regression

regressive tax /·ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a tax that takes a larger PERCENTAGE of money from people with low incomes

than from those with high incomes —compare PROGRESSIVE TAX

re·gret[1] /rɪ'gret/ *v* **-tt-** [T] **1** to feel sorry about (a sad fact or event, a mistake one has made, etc.), and wish it had not happened or was not true: *Later on, I regretted my decision not to take the job.* [+*v-ing*] *We've always deeply regretted selling the farm.* [+*that*] (*polite*) *I regret that I will be unable to attend.* | (in making threats) *Don't tell the police about this – or you'll regret it!* **2** *fml* to be sorry that one has lost; miss very much: *I don't mind living in the city, but I do regret my horse!* **3 I/We regret to say/to inform you/to tell you** *fml* (used when bad news is to follow): *We regret to inform you that you owe the bank £100.* **4 I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country** *quote* a phrase used by the American Nathan Hale

regret[2] *n* [U (**at**)] a feeling of sorrow or unhappiness, often mixed with disappointment (at the loss of something, at a sad event, etc.): *We decided, with some regret/with great regret that we could not offer him the job.* | *I feel no regret at her absence.* | *The prime minister expressed her regret at the failure of the talks.* | **Much to my regret** (=I am sorry to say), *I am unable to accept your invitation.* —see also REGRETS —~**ful** *adj* : *She said goodbye to her old home with many regretful glances.* —~**fulness** *n* [U]

re·gret·ful·ly /rɪ'gretfəli/ *adv* **1** in a regretful way **2** REGRETTABLY (2)

▷ USAGE **Regretfully** is often used to mean "it is regrettable that", but many people think this is bad English.◁

re·grets /rɪ'grets/ *n* [P] **1** (used in polite expressions of refusal) a note or message refusing an invitation: *Philip sends his regrets.* | *I can't come – please give them my regrets.* **2 have no regrets** not to feel sorry about what has happened: *He said he had no regrets about leaving the university.*

re·gret·ta·ble /rɪ'gretəbəl/ *adj euph* (often used when a stronger word is really meant) that one should feel sorry about; causing regret: *His behaviour at the party was most regrettable.* (=very bad) | *It is regrettable that the government has found it necessary to use such secretive methods.*

re·gret·ta·bly /rɪ'gretəbli/ *adv* **1** in a regrettable manner; to a regrettable degree **2** it is regrettable that: *Regrettably, the cancellation of this order will lead to some job losses.* —see REGRETFULLY (USAGE)

re·group /ˌriː'gruːp/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) form into new groups or into groups again

reg·u·lar[1] /'regjʊlə^r/ *adj* **1** happening or appearing with the same amount of time or space between each one and the next; not varying: *the regular tick of the clock* | *His pulse is not very regular.* | *Plant the seeds at regular intervals.* **2 a** happening, coming, or doing something again and again at the same times each day, week, etc.: *regular readers of this newspaper/users of this bus service* | *regular working hours* | *We hold regular planning meetings.* | *We meet* **on a regular basis.** | *They* **keep regular hours.** (=get up and go to bed at the same times each day) **b** (of a person) getting rid of waste food from the bowels often enough: *Eating fruit will keep you regular.* **3** happening (almost) every time: *regular attendance at church* | *his regular failure to meet the deadlines* **4** *usu. apprec* evenly shaped: *He has very regular features.* (=of the face) | *A cube is a* **regular solid.** (=all its sides are the same) **5** proper; correct: *It's not the regular way of spelling this word.* **6** *esp. AmE* ordinary; average: *Do you want the regular size or this big one?* **7** (in grammar) following a common pattern: *The verb "dance" is regular, but the verb "be" is not.* —opposite **irregular** (for 1 to 7) **8** [A *no comp.*] professional; not just employed for a time: *the* **regular army** | *a regular soldier* **9** [A] *old-fash infml* complete; thorough: *He's always ordering us about – he's a regular little dictator.* **10** [A] *esp. AmE apprec* pleasant and honest: *a regular guy* **11** [*no comp.*] *tech* living under a particular religious rule of life: *Ordinary Roman Catholic priests are not members of the* **regular clergy,** *but monks are.* —compare SECULAR (3); see also REGULARLY, **regular as clockwork** (CLOCKWORK) —~**ity** /ˌregjʊ'lærɨti/ *n* [U]

regular[2] *n* **1** *infml* a regular visitor, customer, etc.: *a group of regulars drinking in the bar* **2** a soldier who is a member of an army kept by a country all the time **3** [U] *AmE* **a** petrol that contains LEAD (4) **b** petrol of the ordinary kind, not HIGH-OCTANE —compare UNLEADED

reg·u·lar·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /'regjʊləraɪz/ *v* [T] to make (a state of affairs that has already gone on for some time) legal and official: *After living together for several years they regularized the position and got married.* —**-ization** /ˌregjʊləraɪ'zeɪʃən‖-lərə-/ *n* [U]

reg·u·lar·ly /'regjʊləli‖-ərli/ *adv* **1 a** at regular times: *Take the medicine regularly three times a day.* | *We meet regularly to discuss business.* **b** often and repeatedly: *I regularly get letters from people who have read my books.* **2** evenly: *Her nose is regularly shaped.*

reg·u·late /'regjʊleɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to control, esp. by rules; bring order or method to: *There are strict rules regulating the use of chemicals in food.* | *a well-regulated family* **2** to make (a machine) work at a certain speed, etc.; ADJUST: *You can regulate the radiator by turning this little dial.* —see also DEREGULATE

reg·u·la·tion /ˌregjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] an esp. official rule or order: *regulations governing the sale of guns* | *She was fined for driving above the regulation speed.* | *tax/safety regulations* | *I'm fed up with* **rules and regulations. 2** [U] control; the bringing of order: *the regulation of public spending*

reg·u·la·tor /'regjʊleɪtə^r/ *n* an instrument that controls something, such as the part of a clock that controls its speed —see picture at TYPEWRITER

reg·u·la·to·ry /'regjʊlətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj fml* having the purpose of regulating

reg·u·lo /'regjʊləʊ/ *n BrE* a degree of heat in a gas cooker, shown by the stated number: *Cook this meat on regulo 4.*

re·gur·gi·tate /rɪ'gɜːdʒɨteɪt‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [I;T] *fml* to bring back (food already swallowed) into the mouth: *Some birds and animals regurgitate (food) to feed their young.* | (fig.) *She just regurgitates everything the teacher says, instead of thinking for herself.* —**-tation** /rɪˌgɜːdʒɨ'teɪʃən‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [U]

re·hab /'riːhæb/ *v* **-bb-** *AmE* rehabilitate, esp. sense 2: *He makes a living rehabbing old houses.* —**rehab** /riː'hæb/ *n, adj* : *a rehab program for drug addicts* | *We live in a rehab.* (=rehabbed house)

re·ha·bil·i·tate /ˌriːhə'bɪlɨteɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to make (a person) able to live a healthy, useful, or active life again, esp. after being ill or in prison, e.g. by training: *The social services do their best to rehabilitate criminals once they've left prison.* **2** to put back into good condition: *a plan to rehabilitate inner-city areas* **3** to bring back to a former high level, e.g. of rank or in public opinion: *He left the presidency in disgrace, but he/his reputation has now been rehabilitated.* —**-tation** /ˌriːhəbɪlɨ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *a rehabilitation centre/clinic for drug addicts*

re·hash /riː'hæʃ/ *v* [T] *infml, usu. derog* to use (the same ideas) again in a new form which is not really different or better: *a politician who keeps rehashing the same old speech* —**rehash** /'riːhæʃ/ *n* : *a rehash of an old idea*

re·hears·al /rɪ'hɜːsəl‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [C;U] **1** (an occasion of) rehearsing a play, concert, etc.: *This play still needs a lot of rehearsal(s).* —see also DRESS REHEARSAL **2** [(**of**)] *fml* the telling of events or a story

re·hearse /rɪ'hɜːs‖-ɜːrs/ *v* **1** [I;T] **a** to practise (a play, concert, etc.) in order to prepare for a public performance: *The actors were rehearsing (the play) until 2 o'clock in the morning.* **b** to cause (someone) to do this: *She rehearsed the musicians.* **2** [T] *fml* to tell fully (events or a story); RECOUNT

Rehn·quist /'renkwɪst/, **William H** (1924–) the Chief Justice (=most important judge) of the US Supreme Court since 1986. He has been a member of the Supreme Court since 1972 and is thought to be a CONSERVATIVE judge.

re·house /ˌriː'haʊz/ *v* [T] to put (someone) into a new or better home

Reich /raɪk, raɪx/ *Ger* [*the*] the German state or kingdom, esp. during any of three particular periods: *The* **Third Reich** *lasted from 1933 to 1945.*

Reid /riːd/, **Beryl** (1920–) an English COMEDIENNE (=a woman who makes people laugh) and actress, well-known for playing character parts

reign[1] /reɪn/ *n* a period of reigning: *during the reign of George IV*

reign[2] *v* [I] **1** [(**over**)] to be the king or queen, esp. without holding real power: *The British Queen reigns but does not*

rule. | *He reigned over a small kingdom.* **2** *esp. lit* (of a state or situation, often an undesirable one) to exist noticeably; PREVAIL: *Silence reigned once more after the thunder.* | *After the dictator's death, anarchy and confusion reigned for several years.*

reign·ing /ˈreɪnɪŋ/ *adj* [A] being the most recent winner of a competition: *the reigning Miss World|Wimbledon champion*

reign of ter·ror /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a period of political cruelty and widespread official killing of opponents of those in power

re·im·burse /ˌriːɨmˈbɜːs‖-ɜːrs/ *v* [T (**to, for**)] *fml* to pay (money) back to (esp. someone who has had to spend money in connection with their work): *We will reimburse you for your travelling expenses.* | *Your expenses will be reimbursed.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *We will reimburse you your expenses.* —compare REFUND² —~**ment** *n* [C;U]

rein¹ /reɪn/ also **reins** *pl.*— *n* **1** a long narrow band usu. of leather, by which a horse, or sometimes a young child, is controlled and guided: *Pull on the reins|the left rein.* —see picture at HORSE **2 give (free) rein to** to give freedom to (feelings or desires): *He gave free rein to his imagination.* **3 keep a tight rein on** to control firmly: *The finance director keeps a very tight rein on our spending.* —see also REINS

rein² *v*

rein sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] to cause (a horse) to stop by pulling the reins

rein sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to cause (a horse) to go more slowly by pulling the reins; RESTRAIN: (fig.) *The government is reining in public expenditure.*

re·in·car·nate /ˌriːɪnˈkɑːneɪt‖-ɑːr-/ *v* [T (**as**) *usu. pass.*] to cause to return to life in a new body, after death: *Perhaps you will be reincarnated as a snake.*

re·in·car·na·tion /ˌriːɪnkɑːˈneɪʃən‖-ɑːr-/ *n* **1** [U] the act or fact of being reincarnated: *Hindus believe in reincarnation.* **2** [C (**of**)] the person or animal that results: *She thinks she is a reincarnation of Cleopatra.*

rein·deer /ˈreɪndɪəʳ/ *n* **reindeer** a large deer with long branching horns.

►CULTURAL NOTE Reindeer are wild and plentiful in northern Canada and Alaska, where they are sometimes called **caribou**. They are used in the coldest parts of Europe for pulling carriages (SLEDGES) across the snow, and many children believe that at CHRISTMAS Santa Claus travels in a sledge pulled by reindeer.◄

re·in·force /ˌriːɨnˈfɔːs‖-ˈfɔːrs/ *v* [T] **1** to strengthen (a group, esp. an army) by the addition of men, equipment, etc. **2** to add strength or support to; make stronger or firmer: *to reinforce the elbows of a jacket with leather patches* | *Their arguments are strongly reinforced by the latest trade figures.* | *Newspapers like this tend to reinforce people's prejudices.* —**forcement** *n* [U] : *The wall needs some reinforcement.*

reinforced con·crete /ˌ··· ˈ··/ also **ferroconcrete**— *n* [U] stonelike material (CONCRETE) strengthened by metal rods placed in it before it hardens, and used in building

re·in·force·ments /ˌriːɨnˈfɔːsmənts‖-ˈfɔːrs-/ *n* [P] more soldiers sent to reinforce an army

Rein·hardt /ˈraɪnhɑːt‖-ɑːrt/, **Djan·go** /ˈdʒæŋgəʊ/ (1910–53) a Belgian JAZZ musician who played the GUITAR with Stephane Grappelli and with many famous American jazz musicians

reins /reɪnz/ *n* [*the*+P] a means or position of control: *Who will* **take the reins** *while the boss is in hospital?* | *to* **hold/take over the reins** *of government* —see also REIN

re·in·state /ˌriːɨnˈsteɪt/ *v* [T (**as, in**)] to put back into a former job or position: *He was dismissed, but was later reinstated (as head teacher in his former job).* —~**ment** *n* [C;U]

re·in·sure /ˌriːɨnˈʃʊəʳ/ *v* [T] *tech* to insure again with another insurance company, so that the risk of loss will be shared —**surance** *n* [U]

re·is·sue /ˌriːˈɪʃuː, -ˈɪsjuː‖-ˈɪʃuː/ *v* [T] to print again after a time: *The book was reissued in a new cover.* —**reissue** *n* : *a reissue of stamps*

re·it·e·rate /riːˈɪtəreɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* to repeat several times, in order to make one's position or opinions as clear as possible: *They reiterated their demands for an official inquiry into the accident.* [+*that*] *Let me reiterate that we have absolutely no plans to increase taxation.* —**ration** /riːˌɪtəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

Reith /riːθ/, **Lord** (1889–1971) the first manager of the BBC, known for his high standards

Reith lec·tures /ˌ· ˈ··/ [*the*+P] a yearly set of talks broadcast on the BBC, given by a person who is very knowledgeable about an important subject

re·ject¹ /rɪˈdʒekt/ *v* [T] **1** to refuse to accept, consider, or use: *She rejected my suggestion.* | *He was rejected for the army because of his bad eyesight.* | *If people are unkind to him he feels rejected.* | *The patient rejected* (=his body failed to accept) *the transplanted heart.* | *The teachers voted to reject the government's pay offer.* **2** to throw away as useless or imperfect: *Choose the good apples and reject the bad ones.* —see REFUSE (USAGE)

re·ject² /ˈriːdʒekt/ *n* something rejected, esp. because it is not good enough to be sold

re·jec·tion /rɪˈdʒekʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) rejecting or being rejected: *the rejection of an application* | *I've had so many rejections I've stopped offering to help her.*

re·jig /riːˈdʒɪg/ *BrE* ‖ **re·jig·ger** /riːˈdʒɪgəʳ/ *AmE*— *v* **-gg-** [T] to supply with new equipment or new systems; rearrange, esp. so as to perform different work or to work more effectively: *The factory had to be rejigged to accommodate the new machinery.* —**rejig** /ˈriːdʒɪg/ *n*

re·joice /rɪˈdʒɔɪs/ *v* [I (**at, over**)] *fml or lit* to feel or show great joy: *We rejoiced at|over the good news.* [+*to-v*] *They all rejoiced to hear the happy news.*

rejoice in sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] **1** to have (something that brings happiness): *They rejoiced in their good fortune.* **2** *BrE humor* (of a person) to have (a particular name or title, esp. one that is silly or amusing): *He rejoices in the name of Pigg.*

re·joic·ing /rɪˈdʒɔɪsɪŋ/ also **rejoicings** *pl.*— *n* [U (**at, over**)] *fml or lit* great and uncontrolled joy, esp. shown by a number of people: *great rejoicing(s) over the victory*

re·join¹ /ˌriːˈdʒɔɪn/ *v* [T] **1** to join together again: *Rejoin the two wires.* **2** to go back to (a group, organization, etc.): *He rejoined his regiment after a week's leave.*

re·join² /rɪˈdʒɔɪn/ *v* [T] to say (something) in reply, esp. rudely or angrily: *"No, I won't!" he rejoined rudely.* —see ANSWER (USAGE)

re·join·der /rɪˈdʒɔɪndəʳ/ *n* an answer, esp. a rude one: *a sharp rejoinder*

re·ju·ve·nate /rɪˈdʒuːvəneɪt/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to make (someone) feel or look young and strong again: *The mountain air will rejuvenate you.* | (fig.) *They have restored and rejuvenated the derelict theatre.* —**nation** /rɪˌdʒuːvəˈneɪʃən/ *n* [S;U]

re·kin·dle /riːˈkɪndl/ *v* [T] to light (esp. a fire) again: (fig.) *The accident rekindled the public debate on this issue.* (=made it active again)

re·laid /ˌriːˈleɪd/ *past tense & participle of* RELAY³

re·lapse /rɪˈlæps‖ˈriːlæps/ *v* [I (**into**)] to fall back into a bad state of health or way of life, after an improvement; return: *He soon relapsed into his old bad habits.* —**relapse** *n* : *She can't return to work because she's had a relapse.* (=is ill again)

re·late /rɪˈleɪt/ *v* [T (**to**)] *fml* **1** [(**to**)] to tell (a story): *He related (to us) the story of his escape.* | **Strange to relate** (=this is surprising), *they never met again.* **2** to show or establish a connection between: *The police are still trying to relate these two pieces of evidence.* | *The report seeks to relate the rise in crime to the increase in unemployment.*

relate to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to concern; be about or be directed towards: *These proposals relate only to agricultural land.* | *secret documents relating to the conduct of the war* **2** to have a connection with: *The cost relates directly to the amount of time spent on the job.* **3** to have a satisfactory relationship with; understand and accept: *She doesn't relate very well to her mother.* | (fig.) *I can't relate to his ideas/music at all.*

Relate a British organization which helps those who have problems with relationships such as marriage. It used to be called the Marriage Guidance Council.

re·lat·ed /rɪˈleɪtɨd/ *adj* [(**to**)] **1** [F] connected by a family relationship: *She and I are related.* | *I am related to her by marriage.* **2** connected in some way: *The programme deals with drug addiction, juvenile crime, and related issues.* | *The fall in the cost of living is directly related to the drop in the oil price.* —opposite **unrelated** —~**ness** *n* [U]

re·la·tion /rɪˈleɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C] also **relative** *esp. AmE*– a member of one's family: *close/distant relations | They invited all their relations to stay at Christmas. | My husband's relations are my* **relations by marriage.** –see also BLOOD RELATION **2** [C;U **(between, to)**] RELATIONSHIP (2): *The actual cost* **bears no/little/some relation to** (=matches not at all/not much/partly) *what we expected.* **3** [U **(of)**] *fml* the act of telling a story **4 in/with relation to** *fml or pomp* about; with regard to –see RELATIONSHIP (USAGE); see also POOR RELATION, PUBLIC RELATIONS

re·la·tion·al /rɪˈleɪʃənəl/ *adj tech* (of a word) used as part of a sentence but without a meaning of its own: *"Have" in "I have gone" is a relational word.* –compare NOTIONAL (2)

relational da·ta·base /ˌ··· ˈ···/ *n* a computer DATABASE which allows a user to find and work with the same information in many different ways

re·la·tions /rɪˈleɪʃənz/ *n* [P **(between, with)**] **1** way of treating and thinking of each other: *We had/enjoyed friendly relations with the Soviet Union. | The relations between our two countries are not good just now.* **2** connections; affairs together: *They have business relations with our firm. | After this incident we broke off diplomatic relations with their country. | It is believed he had* **sexual relations with** (=had sex with) *her. | the relations between landlord and tenant* –see RELATIONSHIP (USAGE)

re·la·tion·ship /rɪˈleɪʃənʃɪp/ *n* **1** [C **(between, with)**] a friendship or connection between people: *My relationship with my boyfriend has lasted six months now. | the good relationship between the police and the local people* **2** [C;U **(between, to)**] (a) connection: *the relationship between wages and prices* **3** [U **(between)**] the state of being of the same family: *They're both called Smith, but there's no relationship between them.*

▷USAGE Compare **relationship, relation,** and **relations.** All three words can be used to suggest a connection between people or things. **Relationship,** when used of people, suggests a close connection with strong feelings: *her* **relationship** *with her husband.* Both **relationship** and **relation** can be used of things that depend on each other: *the* **relationship/relation** *between temperature and humidity.* **Relations** can be used of a more formal or distant **relationship** between people or groups: *The local community has good* **relations** *with the police. |* **Relations** *between our countries are improving.*◁

rel·a·tive[1] /ˈrelətɪv/ *n esp. AmE* a RELATION (1): *My uncle is my nearest/closest living relative.*

relative[2] *adj* **1** compared to each other or to something else: *the relative costs of building in stone and in brick | After his money troubles, he's now living in relative comfort. | an atmosphere of relative calm after the recent upheavals* –opposite **absolute** **2** [F+**to**] *fml* connected (with); on the subject (of); RELEVANT (to): *facts relative to this question* –see also RELATIVELY

relative clause /ˌ··· ˈ·/ *n tech* (in grammar) a part of a sentence that has a verb in it, and is joined to the rest of the sentence by **who, which, where,** etc.: *In "The man who lives next door is a doctor" the words "who lives next door" form a relative clause.*

relative hu·mid·i·ty /ˌ··· ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] the amount of water VAPOUR present in the air, expressed as a PERCENTAGE of the greatest possible amount that could be present. In the US it is often given in weather reports. Very high relative humidity (over 90%) causes discomfort for most people.

rel·a·tive·ly /ˈrelətɪvli/ *adv* quite; when compared to others of the same kind: *The exam was relatively easy. | a relatively warm day for the time of year | Relatively speaking it's not important.*

relative pro·noun /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n tech* a PRONOUN such as **who, which, that,** etc., by which a relative clause is connected to the rest of the sentence

rel·a·tiv·i·ty /ˌrelə ˈtɪvɨti/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) a THEORY about the relationships between time, ENERGY, and mass, which change with increased speed: *Einstein's Theory of Relativity*

re·lax /rɪˈlæks/ *v* **1** [I;T] to make or become less active and worried: *Sit down and relax! | The music will help to relax you.* **2** [I;T] to make or become less stiff or tight: *His muscles relaxed. | She relaxed her hold on the wheel.* **3** [T] to make (effort or control) less severe: *You must not relax your efforts for a moment. | a proposal to relax immigration controls*

re·lax·a·tion /ˌriːlækˈseɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (something done for) rest and amusement: *He plays the piano for a bit of relaxation. It's one of his favourite relaxations.* **2** [U **(of, in)**] the act of making or becoming less stiff or severe: *the relaxation of controls on government spending*

re·laxed /rɪˈlækst/ *adj* **1** (of a person) free from worry; easy in manner: *He was lying in the sun looking very relaxed and happy.* **2** (esp. of a group situation or surroundings) comfortable and informal; restful: *a relaxed atmosphere*

re·lax·ing /rɪˈlæksɪŋ/ *adj* making one feel relaxed: *a relaxing afternoon in the garden*

re·lay[1] /ˈriːleɪ/ *n* **1** [C;U] a part of a team or organization, that takes its turn in keeping an activity going continuously, a fresh group replacing a tired one: *Groups of men worked* **in relays** *to clear the blocked railway line.* **2** a relay race **3 a** [U] an electrical arrangement or apparatus that receives and passes on messages by telephone, radio, etc.: *The concert was broadcast* **by relay. b** [C **(of)**] a broadcast sent out in this way: *We listened to a relay of the concert.*

relay[2] /ˈriːleɪ ‖ riˈleɪ, ˈriːleɪ/ *v* **-layed** [T **(to)**] **1** to send out by RELAY[1] (2): *The broadcast was relayed to Europe.* **2** to pass (a message) from one person to another: *Could you relay the news to the other teachers?*

re·lay[3] /ˌriːˈleɪ/ *v* **-laid** /ˈleɪd/ [T] to lay (esp. a CARPET or CABLE[1] (2)) again

relay race /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a running or swimming race between two or more teams in which each member of each team runs or swims part of the total distance

re·lease[1] /rɪˈliːs/ *v* [T] **1** [(**from**)] to set free; let go: *She released the rabbit from the trap. | The hijackers released three of the hostages. | The aircraft released its bombs. | He released (his hold on) her arm.* **2** to press (a handle) so as to allow something to move: *She released the handbrake of the car.* **3** to allow **a** (a new film or record) to be shown or sold publicly **b** (a news story or piece of government information) to be known and printed: *The new trade figures have just been released.*

release[2] *n* **1** [S;U (**from**)] the act of setting free or being set free: *After his release from prison he came home. | After my examination I had a feeling of release.* **2** [C] a new film, record, or piece of information that has been released: *On this show they play the latest releases.* –see also PRESS RELEASE **3** [C] a letter or message that sets someone free: *The governor of the prison signed the release.* **4** [C] a handle, button, etc. that can be pressed to allow part of a machine to move –see picture at TYPEWRITER **5 on general release** (of a film) able to be seen at all the cinemas in an area –see also DAY RELEASE COURSE

rel·e·gate /ˈrelɨgeɪt/ *v* [T **(to)**] to put into a lower or worse place: *We relegated the old furniture to the children's room. | (esp. BrE) Everyone was surprised when the football team was relegated (to the second division).* –compare PROMOTE **–-gation** /ˌrelɨˈgeɪʃən/ *n* [U **(to)**]

re·lent /rɪˈlent/ *v* [I] to have or show pity; become less severe or cruel: *At first she threatened to dismiss us all, but later she relented. |* (fig.) *In the morning the storm relented a little.*

re·lent·less /rɪˈlentləs/ *adj* continuously severe: *the relentless fury of the waves | relentless pain | He was relentless in questioning the suspect.* **– ~ly** *adv* : *He beat the dog relentlessly. | We worked relentlessly to finish the job.* **– ~ness** *n* [U]

rel·e·vant /ˈrelɨvənt/ *adj* [**(to)**] **1** directly connected with the subject: *His nationality isn't relevant to whether he's a good lawyer/isn't a relevant point.* **2** having practical value or importance: *This type of university course is no longer relevant (to today's problems).* –opposite **irrelevant** **– ~ly** *adv* **–-vance, -vancy** *n* [U **(to)**] : *What you say has no relevance to the subject.* –opposite **irrelevance**

re·li·a·ble /rɪˈlaɪəbəl/ *adj* that may be trusted; dependable: *She may forget to come – she's not very reliable. | I have it on reliable evidence* (=I have heard it from someone trustworthy) *that the hospital is going to be closed down. | a reliable car | a reliable source of information* –opposite **unreliable** **–-bly** *adv* : (*pomp*) *I am reliably informed* (=a reliable person told me) *that he's deep in debt.* **–-bility**

/rɪˌlaɪəˈbɪlɨti/ *n* [U] –opposite **unreliability**

re·li·ance /rɪˈlaɪəns/ *n* [U (**on**)] **1** trust: *I place complete reliance on his judgment.* **2** the state of being materially supported; dependence: *our country's reliance on imported oil* –see also RELY **on**

re·li·ant /rɪˈlaɪənt/ *adj* [F+**on**] depending on; relying on (RELY **on**): *We should not be so reliant on imported oil.* – see also SELF-RELIANT

rel·ic /ˈrelɪk/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] something old that reminds us of the past: *This stone axe is a relic of ancient times.* | (*humor*) *How much longer are you going to drive around in that old relic?* **2** a part of the body or clothing of a holy person, or something that belonged to them which is kept and respected after their death –see also RELIQUARY

rel·ics /ˈrelɪks/ *n* [P] *lit* someone's dead body: *His relics are buried at Winchester.*

rel·ict /ˈrelɪkt/ *adj* [A] *tech* remaining in existence after most others of the same type no longer exist

re·lief /rɪˈliːf/ *n* **1** [S;U] (a) feeling of comfort at the ending of anxiety, pain, or dullness: *This medicine will give/bring you some relief.* | *a drug for the relief of pain* | *I* **heaved a sigh of relief** *when I heard he was safe.* | *You're safe! What a relief!* | *Much to my relief/To my great relief, her injuries were only slight.* | *The funny scenes in Shakespeare provide a little* **light relief.** (=a pleasant and amusing change) **2** [U] help for people in trouble: *The government sent relief* (=money, food, clothes) *to the people who lost their homes in the flood.* | *They've started a relief fund for the refugees.* **3** [U] *BrE* ‖ **benefit** *AmE*– a part of one's income on which one does not have to pay tax for some special reason: *He gets tax relief because he supports his old mother.* **4** [U] *AmE* money given by the government to help people who are poor, old, unemployed, etc. **5** [C+*sing./pl. v*] a person or group taking from another the responsibility for a duty: *The relief for the military guard is/are expected soon.* | *a relief driver* | *They had to provide a relief bus because there were so many passengers.* | *The Yankees are bringing in their relief pitcher.* **6** [U+**of**] the act of driving away an enemy: *the relief of the city* **7** [U] *tech* a legal way of dealing with a problem: *seek relief by taking the matter to court* **8** [C;U] (a shape or) decoration cut so that it sticks out above the rest of the surface it is on, as on a coin: *a carving* **in high/low relief** (=sticking out a long way/a little) | (fig.) *black trees standing out* **in bold/sharp relief** (=seeming to stick out) *against the snow* –compare BAS-RELIEF, HIGH RELIEF

relief map /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a map with the mountains and high parts shown differently from the low parts, esp. by being printed in a different colour

relief road /ˈ·· ·/ *n esp. BrE* a road made in order to take away heavy traffic from another road

re·lieve /rɪˈliːv/ *v* [T] **1** to lessen (pain, anxiety, or trouble): *a drug that relieves headaches* **2** to take a duty from (someone) as a RELIEF (5): *The guard will be relieved at midnight.* **3** to give variety to; make more interesting: *I went for a walk to relieve the boredom of the day.* **4** to drive away the enemy from (a town, fort, etc.) **5 relieve oneself** *fml euph* to URINATE or empty the bowels **6 relieve one's feelings** to cry, shout, etc., in order to make oneself feel better: *He relieved his feelings by throwing his boots at the cat.*

relieve sbdy. **of** sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to free (someone) of (something heavy to carry or hard to do): *Let me relieve you of that heavy parcel/of some of the housework.* | (*humor*) *A thief relieved me of my watch.* (=stole it) **2** [*often pass.*] *euph* to dismiss from (a position): *He was relieved of his employment/his duties.*

re·lieved /rɪˈliːvd/ *adj* no longer worried; feeling relief: *Your mother will be very relieved (at the news).* | *She had a relieved look on her face.* [F+*to-v*/*that*] *I was relieved (to hear) that they were safe.*

re·li·gion /rɪˈlɪdʒən/ *n* **1** [U] belief in the life of the spirit and usu. in one or more gods, esp. the belief that it/they made the world and can control it **2** [C] a particular system of this belief and the worship, behaviour, etc., connected with it: *the Christian religion* | *Islam and Buddhism are two of the great religions of the world.* | (fig.) *Music is a religion with John; he* **makes a religion of** *it.*

re·li·gi·ose /rɪˈlɪdʒiəʊs/ *adj* (of a person) unreasonably or too noticeably religious **–-osity** /rɪˌlɪdʒiˈɒsɨti‖-ˈɑːs-/ *n* [U]

re·li·gious /rɪˈlɪdʒəs/ *adj* **1** of religion: *a religious service* | *religious liberty* (=freedom to choose one's religion) **2** (of a person or their behaviour) obeying the rules of a religion very carefully; PIOUS: *a very religious man* – opposite **irreligious** **3** [A] performing duties very carefully, as a matter of conscience: *She washes the floor with religious care every morning.*

religious ed·u·ca·tion /·ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ also **religious in·struc·tion** /·ˌ·· ·ˈ··/, **RE** *abbrev.*– *n* [U] the study of religion at school. In Britain, all children receive some religious education at school. In the US, state schools are not allowed to teach religion on the principle of the SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.

re·li·gious·ly /rɪˈlɪdʒəsli/ *adv* in a careful and thorough way: *They followed the instructions quite religiously.*

religious ob·serv·ance /·ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* **1** [U] the practice of performing the formal act of one's religion **2** [C] a formal act of religion

religious tol·e·rance /·ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* [U] the idea that other people have a right to practise a religion which is not one's own

re·line /ˌriːˈlaɪn/ *v* [T] to put a new LINING (=inside covering) into: *She relined the old coat.*

re·lin·quish /rɪˈlɪŋkwɪʃ/ *v* [T (**to**)] *fml* to give up (power, position, a claim, etc.): *to relinquish power* | *He relinquished his claim to the land/his hold on my arm.* | *She relinquished all control over the family business to her daughter.*

rel·i·qua·ry /ˈrelɨkwəri‖-kweri/ *n* a container for religious RELICS (2)

rel·ish[1] /ˈrelɪʃ/ *n* **1** [S;U (**for**)] great enjoyment, esp. of food; pleasure and satisfaction: *He drank up the wine with relish.* **2** [C;U] (a) substance eaten with a meal, such as PICKLES or SAUCE, to add taste and interest

relish[2] *v* [T] to enjoy; be pleased and satisfied with: *He didn't relish the prospect of having to explain his behaviour.* [+*v-ing*] *Hilary won't relish having to wash all those dishes.*

re·live /ˌriːˈlɪv/ *v* [T] to experience again, esp. in the imagination: *She relived her school days in conversation with an old friend.*

re·load /ˌriːˈləʊd/ *v* [I;T] to load (a gun) again

re·lo·cate /ˌriːləʊˈkeɪt‖riːˈləʊkeɪt/ *v* [I;T] to move to or establish in a new place: *The factory has been relocated into the Bristol area.* | *We're relocating into the Bristol area.* **–-cation** /ˌriːləʊˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re·luc·tant /rɪˈlʌktənt/ *adj* unwilling, and therefore perhaps slow to act: *reluctant helpers* | *He gave a reluctant promise.* [F+*to-v*] *They were very reluctant to help.* (=but probably did help) **– ~ly** *adv* : *She reluctantly accepted the money.* **–-tance** *n* [S;U (+*to-v*)] : *He agreed, but with great reluctance/with a certain reluctance.*

re·ly /rɪˈlaɪ/ *v*

rely on/upon sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to trust (esp. that something will happen or someone will do something); have confidence in: *You can't rely on the weather.* (=it may well be bad) | *I think I can come, but don't rely on it.* | *We're relying on your discretion.* [+*v-ing*] *Don't rely on going to India.* (=perhaps you won't) [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *Rely on my/me doing it.* | *Don't rely on the bank lending you the money.* (=perhaps they won't) [+*obj*+*to-v*] *You can rely on me to help you.* **2** [(**for**)] to be materially supported by; depend on: *They have to rely on the river for their water.*

REM /rem/ *n* [U] *abbrev. for* RAPID EYE MOVEMENT

re·main /rɪˈmeɪn/ *v* [*not usu. in progressive forms*] **1** [I] *rather fml* to stay or be left behind after others have gone, been lost, etc.: *She remained at home to look after the children when her husband went out.* | *Little of the original architecture remains.* | *The only remaining question is whether or not we can raise the money.* [+*to-v*] *Several things remain to be done.* | *It only remains for me to say that* ... (=All that is left for me to say is ...) | *It sounds a good idea, but* **it remains to be seen** (=we shall know later on) *whether it will succeed.* **2** [I+*adv*/*prep*;L] to continue to be (in an unchanged state): *He remained a prisoner for the rest of his life.* | *The situation remains unchanged.* | *Despite the danger, she remained calm/she remained in complete control.* | *I'm sorry you're tired, but* **the fact remains** (=in spite of that) *that the job has to be done, so hurry up!* –see STAY (USAGE)

re·main·der[1] /rɪ'meɪndəʳ/ *n* [(*the*) S+*sing./pl. v*] **1** what is left over; the rest: *The remainder of the food will do for tomorrow.* | *Ten people in our class are Arabs and the remainder are Germans.* **2** in DIVISION(5), the number undivided that is smaller than the DIVISOR: *Fifteen divided by six equals two, with a remainder of three.*

remainder[2] *v* [T *usu. pass.*] to sell (esp. books) cheap so as to get rid of them quickly

re·mains /rɪ'meɪnz/ *n* [P] **1** [(**of**)] parts which are left: *the remains of dinner|of an old castle* **2** *fml* a dead body: *His remains lie in the churchyard.*

re·make /ˌriː'meɪk/ *v* **-made** /'meɪd/ [T] to make (esp. a film) again —**remake** /'riːmeɪk/ *n* : *They're doing a remake of "Gone with the Wind".*

re·mand /rɪ'mɑːnd‖rɪ'mænd/ *v* [T *usu. pass.*] *BrE* to send back to prison from a court of law, to be tried later after further inquiries have been made (often in the phrase **remanded in custody**) —**remand** *n* [C;U] : *He's* **on remand.** (=in prison waiting for a trial). One of the problems of the prison service in Britain is that remand prisoners have to live in the same conditions as people who have already been convicted (CONVICT) of a crime, often for quite a long time, even though they may be completely INNOCENT.

remand home /·'· ·/ *n BrE* an institution, also called a **remand centre**, where JUVENILE offenders wait to appear in court, esp. formerly —see also COMMUNITY HOME

re·mark[1] /rɪ'mɑːk‖-ɑːrk/ *v* [T+*that*; ~~*obj*~~] to say esp. something that one has just noticed; give as an opinion: *He remarked that it was getting late.* | *"It's getting late," he remarked.*

remark on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to notice and say or write something about: *Everyone remarked on his absence.*

remark[2] *n* **1** [C (**about, on**)] a spoken or written opinion; COMMENT: *Don't make|pass rude remarks about her appearance.* **2** [U] *fml* notice; attention: *Her strange appearance could hardly escape remark|was worthy of remark.*

re·mar·ka·ble /rɪ'mɑːkəbəl‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* [(**for**)] *esp. apprec* worth mentioning, esp. because unusual or noticeable: *a most remarkable sunset|coincidence* | *Finland is remarkable for the large number of its lakes.* —opposite **unremarkable**

re·mar·ka·bly /rɪ'mɑːkəbli‖-ɑːr-/ *adv* (used esp. with adjectives and adverbs) unusually; noticeably: *He sings remarkably well.* | *a remarkably fine day* | *Remarkably, he's never been abroad.*

re·mar·ry /ˌriː'mæri/ *v* [I;T] to marry again: *He decided to remarry after his wife's death.* | *She remarried her former husband.*

re·mas·ter /riː'mɑːstəʳ‖-'mæs-/ *v* to make a new and better original (MASTER[1] (5)) from which copies can be made: *remaster an old recording*

Rem·brandt /'rembrænt/ (1606–69) a Dutch painter, considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time, who drew many pictures of himself and other people, as well as religious subjects, and is known esp. for his use of light and shade —~**esque** /ˌrembræn'tesk◂/ *adj*

re·me·di·a·ble /rɪ'miːdiəbəl/ *adj fml or tech* that can be put right or cured —opposite **irremediable**

re·me·di·al /rɪ'miːdiəl/ *adj* curing or helping; providing a remedy: *He had to do remedial exercises for his weak back.*| *remedial teaching* —~**ly** *adv*

remedial class /·'··· ˌ·/ *n* a class in some schools where children who have difficulty with reading, writing, or other skills are given special help

rem·e·dy[1] /'remɨdi/ *n* [C;U (**for, against**)] a way of curing something: *A good night's sleep would be the best remedy for your headache.* | *herbal remedies* | *Such evils are beyond|past remedy.* | *The law provides no remedy for this injustice.* (=cannot put it right)

remedy[2] *v* [T] to put or make (something bad) right: *How can we remedy this situation|injustice|mistake|loss?*

re·mem·ber /rɪ'membəʳ/ *v* [*not usu. in progressive forms*] **1** [I;T (**as**)] to (be able to) bring back to one's mind (information, past events, etc.); keep in the memory: *"What's her name?" "I can't remember."* | *I'll always remember that wonderful day.* | *I remember her as* (=I think she was, if my memory is correct) *rather a tall woman.* [+(*that*)] *She suddenly remembered that she had not locked the door.* [+*wh-*] *Can you remember where he lives|how to get there?* [+*v-ing*] *I don't remember agreeing to that.* | *Certainly I posted your letter — I remember posting it.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *Do you remember me asking you that same question?* **2** [I(**about**);T] to take care not to forget: *Did you remember that book I asked you for?* (=have you got it for me?) | *You will remember about watering the plants, won't you?* [+*to-v*] *"You will remember to post my letter, won't you?" "Yes, I'll remember."* | *Please remember to water the plants while I'm away.* —opposite **forget** (for 1,2) **3** [T] *often euph* to give money or a present to: *She always remembers me at Christmas.* | *He remembered me in his will.* (=left me some money after his death) **4** [T] to think about with special respect and honour: *On this day we remember the dead of two world wars.* | *I'll* **remember you in my prayers.** (=pray for you) **5 Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason, and plot** *quote* the first lines of a children's poem about the plan by Guy Fawkes and others to destroy the Houses of Parliament by an explosion — see also GUY FAWKES NIGHT **6 we will remember them** a phrase used esp. during the religious service on Remembrance Day in Britain, when people remember those who died in the two world wars

▷ USAGE Note the difference between **remember** *+v-ing* and **remember** *+to-v. I* **remember** *locking the door as I left the house.* (=I locked the door and can call this event to mind now.) | *I* **remembered** *to lock the door as I left the house.* (=It was in my mind then that I must lock the door, and I locked it.)◁

remember sbdy. **to** sbdy. *phr v* [T] *infml* to send greetings from (someone) to: *Please remember me to your mother.* | *He asked to be remembered to you.*

re·mem·brance /rɪ'membrəns/ *n* [(**of**)] **1** [U] the act of remembering: *A church service was held in remembrance of those killed in the war.* **2** [C] *old-fash* something kept or given to remind one: *He gave me his photograph as a remembrance (of him).*

Remembrance Day /·'·· ·/ also **Remembrance Sun·day** /·ˌ·· '··/— *n* [C;U] the Sunday nearest to November 11th, when people in Britain remember those killed in the two world wars. Services are held in churches, and at war MEMORIALS, and the custom is to wear a red paper POPPY (=a type of flower) in one's buttonhole, as a sign of remembering. The money raised by the sale of these poppies is given to charities (CHARITY) involved with people who suffered in the wars. A few people think that these customs make war seem GLORIOUS, rather than being a reminder of the deaths and the damage that was done, and these people wear a white poppy as a sign of peace. —compare VETERANS DAY; see also ARMISTICE DAY

re·mind /rɪ'maɪnd/ *v* [T (**of**)] to tell or cause (someone) to remember (a fact, or to do something): *I must write to Mother — will you remind me?* | *I've forgotten his name — will you remind me of it?* | *Don't remind me of that awful day — I made such a fool of myself!* | *Will you remind me about that appointment.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *Remind me to write to Mother.* [+*obj*+*that*] *She reminded me that I hadn't written to Mother.* | *The sight of the clock reminded me that I was late.*

remind sbdy. **of** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to appear to (someone) to be similar to: *This hotel reminds me of the one we stayed in last year.*

re·mind·er /rɪ'maɪndəʳ/ *n* something that makes one remember: *He hadn't paid the bill, so the shop sent him a reminder.* (=a letter reminding him to pay)

rem·i·nisce /ˌremɨ'nɪs/ *v* [I (**about**)] to talk or think about past experiences, esp. pleasant ones: *The two old friends were reminiscing (about their youth).* —**niscence** *n* [U] : *to enjoy the pleasures of reminiscence*

rem·i·nis·cenc·es /ˌremɨ'nɪsənsɪz/ *n* [P (**of**)] a spoken or written account of one's own life: *We had to listen to his reminiscences of the war.* —compare MEMOIRS

rem·i·nis·cent /ˌremɨ'nɪsənt/ *adj* **1** [F+**of**] that reminds one of; like: *This hotel is reminiscent of the one we stayed in last year.* | *a taste reminiscent of chicken* **2** [A] thinking about the past; remembering something: *a reminiscent smile.*

re·miss /rɪ'mɪs/ *adj* [F] *fml* careless about a duty; showing lack of care or attention: *It was remiss of me not to* (=I was remiss because I did not) *answer your letter.* | *He has been remiss in his work.* —~**ness** *n* [U]

re·mis·sion /rɪ'mɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] *BrE* (a) lessening of the time a person has to stay in prison. This is possible in Britain because prison sentences are often only ADVISORY, and even people who are guilty of very serious crimes such as RAPE may be allowed out of prison before they have served the full amount of time advised by the court: *The prisoner was given six months' remission for good behaviour.* **2** [C; U] a period when an illness is less severe for a time: *He|The disease* **went into remission** *last month.* **3** [U] *fml* the remitting (REMIT¹ (1)) of a debt or punishment: *Christians pray for* **the remission of sins**. (=that their SINS will be forgiven)

re·mit¹ /rɪ'mɪt/ *v* **-tt-** *fml* **1** [T] to free someone from (a debt or punishment) **2** [I;T **(to)**] to send (money) by post: *Please remit payment|remit by cheque immediately.* –compare UNREMITTING

remit sthg. **to** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to send back to for a decision or other action: *The proposal has been remitted to the executive committee.*

re·mit² /'riːmɪt‖rɪ'mɪt, 'riːmɪt/ *n* [U] *BrE fml* the area over which one has judgment or control: *It is not part of the committee's remit to investigate government policy.*

re·mit·tance /rɪ'mɪtəns/ *n* **1** [C] an amount of money remitted: *He sends her a small remittance each month.* **2** [U] *fml* the remitting of money: *We will forward the goods on remittance of £10.*

rem·nant /'remnənt/ *n* **1** [**(of)**] a part that remains: *We fed the remnants of the feast to the dogs.* **2** a small piece of cloth left over from a larger piece and sold cheap: *a remnant sale*

re·mod·el /ˌriː'mɒdl‖ˌriː'mɑːdl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T] to change the shape of: *an actress who had her nose remodelled*

re·mon·strance /rɪ'mɒnstrəns‖rɪ'mɑːn-/ *n* [C;U **(at, against)**] *fml* (a) complaint: *loud cries of remonstrance*

rem·on·strate /'remənstreɪt‖rɪ'mɑːn-/ *v* [I **(against, with)**] *fml* to complain; express disapproval: *I remonstrated against his behaviour.* | *She remonstrated with him* (=complained to him) *about his behaviour.*

re·morse /rɪ'mɔːs‖-ɔːrs/ *n* [U] great sorrow and a feeling of guilt for having done wrong: *He felt|was filled with remorse after hitting the child.* –~**ful** *adj* –~**fully** *adv*

re·morse·less /rɪ'mɔːsləs‖-ɔːr-/ *adj* **1** showing no remorse: *remorseless cruelty* **2** threateningly unstoppable: *The avalanche continued its remorseless descent down the mountainside.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

re·mote /rɪ'məʊt/ *adj* [**(from)**] **1** distant in space or time: *remote stars* | *the remote future* **2** quiet and lonely; far from the city: *a remote village in the hills* **3** widely separated (from); not close: *remote cousins* | *The connection between these two ideas is very remote.* **4** (esp. of a chance or possibility) slight: *I* **haven't the remotest idea** (=don't know at all) *what you mean.* | *I'm afraid your chances of success are rather remote.* **5** (of behaviour) not showing interest in others: *Her manner was polite but remote.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

remote con·trol /ˌ·· ·'·/ *n* **1** [U] a system for controlling machinery from a distance by radio signals **2** [C] an apparatus that does this: *Pass me the remote control so I can change the TV channel.* –**remote-controlled** *adj* : *a remote-controlled model car*

re·mote·ly /rɪ'məʊtli/ *adv* [*usu. in negatives*] to a very small degree; at all: *She isn't remotely interested in what you're saying.*

re·mould /ˌriː'məʊld/ *v* [T] *BrE* to RETREAD –**remould** /'riːməʊld/ *n*

re·mount¹ /ˌriː'maʊnt/ *v* **1** [I;T] to get onto (a horse or bicycle) again; climb (a ladder, hill, etc.) again: *He remounted (his horse) and rode away.* **2** [T] to fix (a picture, photograph, etc.) on a new piece of cardboard (MOUNT² (1))

re·mount² /'riːmaʊnt/ *n* a fresh horse

re·mov·al /rɪ'muːvəl/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) removing: *a charity organizing the removal of supplies to famine-stricken areas* | *(fml) our removal* (=change of house) *to London* | *No one could account for the removal of the desk from the room.*

removal van /·'·· ·/ also **moving van** *AmE*– *n* a large covered vehicle (VAN) used for moving furniture when moving from one house to another

re·move¹ /rɪ'muːv/ *v* **1** [T (**from**)] to take away (from a place) or take to another place: *Remove* (=take off) *your hat.* | *He removed the child from the class.* **2** [T (**from**)] to get rid of: *He removed the mud from his shoes.* | *an operation to remove the tumour* **3** [T **(from)**] *fml* to dismiss: *That officer must be removed (from his position).* **4** [I (**from, to**)] *fml* to go to live or work in another place: *Our office has removed to Harlow from London.* **5 once|twice|etc., removed** (of COUSINS) different by one, two, etc., GENERATIONS (2): *My second cousin once removed is the child of my second cousin.* **6 removed from** distant from: *What you say is far removed from what you said before.* –**removable** *adj* : *Are the spots removable?*

remove² *n* **1** [C] (always with a statement of number) a stage or degree (in phrases like **(at) only one remove from, several removes from**): *Their action was only (at) one remove from* (=was very nearly) *revolution.* **2** [*the*] (*often cap.*) a class in some British schools into which pupils are put because they have not made enough progress to go into the next higher one. Pupils at British schools usually go up to the next class each September, when the new school year starts, the system being based on age, not ability. It is only in some independent or private schools that pupils must reach a certain standard before moving up.

re·mov·er /rɪ'muːvəʳ/ *n* [C;U] (*usu. in comb.*) a chemical for cleaning off an unwanted substance: *a bottle of paint-remover* | *fingernail polish remover*

re·mu·ne·rate /rɪ'mjuːnəreɪt/ *v* [T (**for**)] *fml* to reward; pay (someone) for work or trouble –**-ration** /rɪˌmjuːnə'reɪʃən/ *n* [S;U] : *You will receive (a small) remuneration.*

re·mu·ne·ra·tive /rɪ'mjuːnərətɪv‖-nəreɪtɪv/ *adj fml* (of work) well-paid; profitable –~**ly** *adv*

Remus see ROMULUS AND REMUS

re·nais·sance /rɪ'neɪsəns‖ˌrenə'sɑːns◂/ also **re·nas·cence** /rɪ'næsəns/– *n* a renewal of interest in some particular kind of art, literature, etc.

Renaissance [*the*] the period in Europe between the 14th and 17th centuries, when the art, literature, and ideas of ancient Greece were discovered again and widely studied, causing a rebirth of activity in all these things –compare MIDDLE AGES

Renaissance man /·ˌ·· '·‖ˌ··· '·/ **Renaissance wom·an** /·ˌ·· '··‖ˌ··· '··/ *fem.*– *n* a person with interests and skills in many subjects, esp. in both the arts and the sciences

re·nal /'riːnl/ *adj med* of the KIDNEYS

re·name /riː'neɪm/ *v* [T+*obj* (+*n*)] to give a new name to: *The street has been renamed (Silver Lane).*

re·nas·cent /rɪ'næsənt/ *adj fml* (of an idea or feeling) starting again after being absent

Ren·ault /'renəʊ‖rə'nɔːlt/ *tdmk* a French company that makes cars that are sold in many countries and are quite popular in Britain, such as the **Renault 5**: *I'm thinking of buying a Renault.*

rend /rend/ *v* **rent** /rent/ [T] *lit* **1** [(APART)] to divide by force; split: *She wept and rent her garments.* | (fig.) *A terrible cry rent the air.* **2** [+*obj*+*adv*|*prep*] to pull violently: *She was rending her hair out in anger.* -see also HEARTRENDING

Ren·dell /'rendl/, **Ruth** (1930–) an English writer whose short stories and NOVELS are often about the reasons for murder. Some of her books have been filmed for television.

ren·der /'rendəʳ/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** [+*obj*+*adj*] to cause to be: *His fatness renders him unable to touch his toes.* **2** [**(to)**] to give: *You will be expected to render an account of money that is owed.* | *Let us render thanks unto God.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *You have rendered me a service.* **3** to perform: *She rendered the song beautifully.* **4** *tech* to put PLASTER or cement onto (a wall)

render sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] to make (fat) pure by melting

render sthg. **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to translate into (a language): *a copy of the Bible rendered into Gujarati*

render sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T **(to)**] **1** *fml* to say (a prayer) **2** *old use* to give up to an enemy: *They rendered up their city to the conqueror.*

ren·der·ing /'rendərɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] *esp. BrE for* RENDITION **2** [U] a material made mainly of cement and sand, used to protect outside walls of buildings

ren·dez·vous[1] /ˈrɒndʒvuː, -deɪ-‖ˈrɑːndeɪ-/ *n* **-vous** /vuːz/ **1** [(**with**)] (an arrangement for) a meeting at a certain time and place: *He made a rendezvous with his girlfriend.* **2** [(**for**)] a popular place for people to meet: *This club is a rendezvous for writers.*

rendezvous[2] *v* **-voused** /vuːd/ [I (**with**)] to meet by arrangement: *The two spacecraft rendezvoused successfully.*

ren·di·tion /renˈdɪʃən/ also **rendering** *esp. BrE– n* **1** a performance of a play or piece of music: *She gave a splendid rendition of the song.* **2** a translation of a piece of writing: *an English rendition of a Greek poem.*

ren·e·gade /ˈrenɪgeɪd/ *n derog, esp. lit* a person who deserts one country or belief to join another; TRAITOR

re·nege , renegue /rɪˈniːg, rɪˈneɪg‖rɪˈnɪg, rɪˈniːg/ *v* [I] **1** [(**on**)] *fml* to break a promise: *He reneged on his contract.* **2** (in card games) to REVOKE (2)

re·new /rɪˈnjuː‖rɪˈnuː/ *v* [T] **1** to repeat (an action): *In the morning the enemy renewed their attack.* **2** to give new life and freshness to; make as good as new again: *I came back from my holiday with renewed strength.* **3** to replace (something old) with something new of the same kind: *I must renew my library ticket.* **4** to obtain a further period of lending for (something borrowed from a library): *I must renew these books.* —**~al** *n* [C; U]

re·new·a·ble /rɪˈnjuːəbəl‖rɪˈnuː-/ *adj* **1** that can be renewed, esp. by natural processes or good management: *Sun, wind, and waves are* **renewable sources** *of energy.* **2** that must be renewed: *This ticket is renewable after 12 months.*

Ren·frew·shire /ˈrenfruːʃəʳ/ a former COUNTY in central Scotland, now part of Strathclyde REGION

ren·net /ˈrenɪt/ *n* [U] a substance used for thickening milk to make cheese, etc.

Re·no /ˈriːnəʊ/ a city in Nevada, US, known for gambling (GAMBLE), legalized PROSTITUTION, and the fact that it is easy to obtain a DIVORCE there without living there for any great length of time

Re·no, Janet /ˈdʒænɪt/ (1938–) a government lawyer from Florida who became US Attorney General in 1993

Ren·oir /ˈrenwɑːʳ‖rənˈwɑːr/, **Jean** /ʒɒn‖ʒɑːn/ (1894–1979) a French film DIRECTOR whose films include *La Grande Illusion* and *Le Règle du Jeu*

Renoir, Pi·erre Au·guste /piˈeəʳ ɔːˈgjuːst/ (1841–1919) a French painter who helped to form the IMPRESSIONIST movement. He is known for his bright, colourful style of painting —see colour picture on page 1016

re·nounce /rɪˈnaʊns/ *v* [T] *rather fml* **1** to give up (a claim); say formally that one does not own: *He renounced his claim to the property.* **2** to say formally that one has no more connection with: *He renounced his religion and became a Muslim.* —see also RENUNCIATION

ren·o·vate /ˈrenəveɪt/ *v* [T] to put back into good condition by repairing, rebuilding, etc.: *The old house is being renovated.* —**-vation** /ˌrenəˈveɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re·nown /rɪˈnaʊn/ *n* [U] fame: *He won renown as a painter.* | *a painter of some|great|high renown*

re·nowned /rɪˈnaʊnd/ *adj* [(**as, for**)] well known to the general public or to a limited group of people for a particular quality, skill, invention, etc.: *Edison was renowned as an inventor|renowned for his inventions|was a renowned inventor.*

rent[1] /rent/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a stated sum of) money paid regularly for the use of a room, building, television set, piece of land, etc.: *They let the house to a young man.* | *We pay a high|low rent.* | *They'll have to pay more|less rent.* | *a rent collector* —see also GROUND RENT **2** *esp. AmE* money paid in this way for the use of a car, boat, clothes, etc.

rent[2] *v* **1** [T (**from**)] to pay rent for the use of: *I rent a room from Mrs Jones.* **2** [T (**to**, OUT)] *esp. AmE*‖**let** *esp. BrE*– to give the use of (a room, building, etc.) in return for rent: *She rents (out) rooms to students.* | *We've rented our house to some French people.* **3** [I+**at, for**] (of a building, land, etc.) to bring in rent: *This house rents at £100 a month.* **4** [T] *esp. AmE* to pay money for the use of (a car, boat, etc.) for a short time; HIRE: *I'll need to rent a tuxedo|car.* **5 Rent-a**... used in the names of companies whose business is renting things to people: *Rent-a-van* | *Rent-a-tent* —**~able** *adj* —**~er** *n*

rent[3] *n* a large tear (as if) in cloth: *several great rents in the curtains*

rent[4] *past tense & participle of* REND

rent·al /ˈrentl/ *n* **1** a sum of money fixed to be paid as rent: *Have you paid this month's television rental?* **2** *AmE* something rented: *These cars are for sale and those over there are rentals.* | *Are there any summer rentals* (=houses to rent) *in this area?*

rent book /ˈ· ·/ *n* a book stating the amounts and times of payment of RENT[1] (1) for a property, etc., usu. kept by the person paying it

rent boy /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **hustler** *AmE*– *n* a young male PROSTITUTE, often a boy who is homeless and needs to earn money for food

rent con·trol /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* [U;C] laws, usu. local, that limit how often and how much LANDLORDS may increase rent

rent-free /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adv, adj* (used) without payment of rent: *He lives there rent-free.* | *a rent-free house*

ren·ti·er /ˈrɒntieɪ‖ˈrɑːntjeɪ/ *n Fr, often derog* a person who lives without working, on INVESTMENTS (=money lent and bringing in an income)

Ren·to·kil /ˈrentəʊkɪl/ a company in Britain which works on buildings esp. to protect them from harmful insects or decay of the wooden parts

rent strike /ˈ· ·/ *n* a refusal to pay rent by all the people living in a block of flats or group of houses, usually as a protest against the amount of rent charged, or to complain about conditions

re·nun·ci·a·tion /rɪˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) renouncing (RENOUNCE) something

re·o·pen /riːˈəʊpən/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) open or begin again: *School reopens next week.* | *New evidence has come to light, so the police will have to reopen the case.* | *Talks between the two countries have reopened.*

re·or·gan·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /riːˈɔːgənaɪz‖-ˈɔːr-/ *v* [I;T] to ORGANIZE (something) again, perhaps in a new way: *She reorganized the room.* (=changed the position of the furniture) | *The managing director reorganized the department and made several promotions.* —**-ization** /riːˌɔːgənaɪˈzeɪʃən‖riːˌɔːrgənə-/ *n* [U]

rep[1] /rep/ *n infml for* SALES REPRESENTATIVE: *Our rep will call on Monday.*

rep[2] *n infml* **1** [C] a REPERTORY theatre or company: *the local rep* **2** [U] REPERTORY: *She acts in rep.*

rep[3] *n AmE infml* REPUTATION: *Showing up drunk blew my rep with Linda's parents.*

Rep *written abbrev. for:* REPUBLICAN

re·paid /rɪˈpeɪd/ *past tense & participle of* REPAY

re·pair[1] /rɪˈpeəʳ/ *v* [T] **1** to make (something worn or broken) work again; mend: *a crew of workmen repairing the road* | *My watch has broken – I'll have to have it repaired.* | *We'll have to get a new car – the gear box can't be repaired.* **2** *fml* to put right (a wrong, mistake, etc.): *How can I repair the wrong I have done her?* —see also IRREPARABLE —**~able** *adj* —**~er** *n*

repair to sthg. *phr v* [T] *fml* to go to (a place), often or in large numbers: *We all repaired to a restaurant and drank coffee together.*

repair[2] *n* **1** [C *often pl.*;U] (an act of) mending something: *The garage is carrying out repairs to my damaged car.* | *The road is* **under repair.** (=being mended) | *I'm afraid this old radio is* **beyond repair.** (=too badly broken to be mended) **2** [C] a mended place: *a neat repair on the elbow of the coat* **3 in (a) good/bad (state of) repair** in good/bad condition

rep·a·ra·ble /ˈrepərəbəl/ *adj* [*usu. in negatives*] (of a wrong, mistake, etc.) that can be put right —opposite **irreparable**

rep·a·ra·tion /ˌrepəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [U (**to, for**)] *fml* repayment for loss or wrong: *You must* **make reparation** *for the damage.*

rep·a·ra·tions /ˌrepəˈreɪʃənz/ *n* [P] money paid by a defeated nation after a war

rep·ar·tee /ˌrepɑːˈtiː‖ˌrepərˈtiː/ *n* [U] (the ability to make) quick amusing answers in conversation: *I enjoy listening to their witty repartee.*

re·past /rɪˈpɑːst‖rɪˈpæst/ *n fml* a meal

re·pat·ri·ate /riːˈpætrieɪt‖riːˈpeɪ-/ *v* [T (**to**)] to bring or send (someone) back to their own country —**-ation** /ˌriːpætriˈeɪʃən‖ˌriːpeɪ-/ *n* [U]

re·pay /rɪˈpeɪ/ *v* **-paid** /ˈpeɪd/ [T] **1** [(**to**)] to return (what is owed) to (someone); pay back: *I've repaid the loan (to the bank).* | *When will you repay me?* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *I repaid her the £10 she lent me.* **2** [(**by, for, with**)] to reward: *We must repay their hospitality|them for their hospitality.* | *He repaid their kindness with insults|by stealing their camera.*

re·pay·a·ble /rɪˈpeɪəbəl/ *adj* (of money) that can or must be paid back: *The debt is repayable in 30 days.*

re·pay·ment /rɪˈpeɪmənt/ *n* [C;U] paying back; something paid back: *a|some small repayment for all you have done* | *The repayments of the loan are spread over 25 years.*

re·peal /rɪˈpiːl/ *v* [T] to put an official end to (a law) —**repeal** *n* [U]

re·peat[1] /rɪˈpiːt/ *v* **1** [T] to say or do again: *Please repeat that word.* [+(*that*)] *He repeated several times that he was busy.* | *"I'm busy", he repeated.* | *Repeat after me, "I must not be a naughty boy."* | *Can you repeat this experiment?* | *to repeat a course|a year in school* (=remain in the same class) | *to repeat an order in business* (=supply the same article again) **2** [T] to say (something heard or learnt) to others: *She repeated the poem.* | *Don't repeat what I told you.* **3** [I] *BrE infml* (of food that one has eaten) to be tasted afterwards in the mouth: *I find that onions repeat.* **4 not bear repeating** (of words) to be too bad to say again **5 repeat oneself** to say or be the same thing again and again: *History seems to be repeating itself.* —see also REPETITION, REPETITIOUS

repeat[2] *n* **1** a performance shown or broadcast a second time: *I wish we could see more new programmes on television, not repeats all the time.* **2** (in music) a sign (:‖) showing that a passage is to be played again

re·peat·ed /rɪˈpiːtɪd/ *adj* [A] done again and again: *repeated failure* — ~**ly** *adv* : *He repeatedly fails to pass the exam.* | *I've told you repeatedly* (=very often) *not to do that.*

re·peat·er /rɪˈpiːtəʳ/ *n* a repeating gun, watch, or clock

re·peat·ing /rɪˈpiːtɪŋ/ *adj* [A] **1** (of a gun) able to be fired several times without reloading **2** (of a watch or clock, esp. in former times) striking the latest hour and quarter-hours when a spring is pressed

re·pel /rɪˈpel/ *v* **-ll-** [T] **1** to drive away (as if) by force: *The crew repelled the attack.* | *a fabric that repels moisture* **2** to cause strong feelings of dislike in: *She was repelled by the dirty room.*

re·pel·lent[1] /rɪˈpelənt/ *adj* causing strong dislike; nasty: *a plate of repellent cold potatoes* | *The sight of blood is repellent to some people.*

repellent[2] **, -lant** *n* [C;U] (a) substance that drives something, esp. insects, away: *a mosquito repellent*

re·pent /rɪˈpent/ *v* [I (**of**);T] *fml* to be sorry for and wish one had not done (something bad): *He repented his wickedness.* | *I have nothing to repent of.* [+*v-ing*] *He repented having shot the bird.*

re·pen·tant /rɪˈpentənt/ *adj* sorry for wrongdoing: *If you are truly repentant you will be forgiven.* —opposite **unrepentant** — ~**ly** *adv* —**-tance** *n* [U]

re·per·cus·sion /ˌriːpəˈkʌʃən‖-pər-/ *n* [*often pl.*] a far-reaching effect of some action or event: *The president's death had unexpected repercussions all over the world.*

rep·er·toire /ˈrepətwɑːʳ‖-ər-/ *n* the collection of plays, pieces of music, etc., that a performer or theatre company can perform: (fig.) *He has a large repertoire of funny stories.*

rep·er·to·ry /ˈrepətəri‖ˈrepərtɔːri/ also **rep** *infml*— *n* [U] the practice of performing several plays, with the same actors and in the same theatres, one after the other on different days: *a job in repertory* | *a repertory theatre|company*

rep·e·ti·tion /ˌrepɪˈtɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] the act of repeating, or something repeated: *This accident is a repetition of one that happened here three weeks ago.*

rep·e·ti·tious /ˌrepɪˈtɪʃəs◂/ also **re·pet·i·tive** /rɪˈpetɪtɪv/— *adj derog* containing parts that are said or done too many times: *a repetitious speech* | *a repetitive job* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

repetitive strain in·ju·ry /ˌ··· ˈ·, ˌ···/ also **RSI**— *n* [U] *med* a condition caused by doing certain types of work in an uncomfortable position, leading to pain in the arms, legs, or back

re·phrase /riːˈfreɪz/ *v* [T] to express (something) in different words, esp. so as to make the meaning clearer or less offensive: *Let me rephrase that.*

re·pine /rɪˈpaɪn/ *v* [I (**against, at**)] *fml or lit* to feel or express sadness or dissatisfaction

re·place /rɪˈpleɪs/ *v* [T] **1** to take the place of: *George has replaced Edward as captain of the team.* **2** [(**with, by**)] to change (one person or thing) for another, often better, newer, etc.: *You'll have to replace those tyres; they're badly worn.* | *We've replaced the old adding machine with|by a computer.* **3** *fml* to put (something) back in the right place: *He replaced the book on the shelf.* — ~**able** *adj*

▷ USAGE Compare the patterns in these sentences: *We* **replaced** *apples with oranges.* (=we put oranges in the place of apples) | *We* **substituted** *apples for oranges.* (=we put apples in the place of oranges)◁

re·place·ment /rɪˈpleɪsmənt/ *n* **1** [U] the act of replacing, esp. with something better, newer, etc.: *These worn tyres are badly in need of replacement.* **2** [C (**for**)] someone or something that replaces: *We need a replacement for the secretary who left.*

re·play[1] /ˌriːˈpleɪ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to play (a match) again: *The game ended in a draw, so they'll replay it on Wednesday.* **2** [T] **a** to play (something that has been recorded on a machine); PLAY **back b** to play (a recording, piece of music, etc.) again

re·play[2] /ˈriːpleɪ/ *n* **1** a match played again **2** a recording; PLAYBACK: *They showed an* **action replay** *of the goal.* | *I wish they'd show us an* **instant replay** (*AmE*) *of that fumble.*

re·plen·ish /rɪˈplenɪʃ/ *v* [T (**with**)] *fml* to fill up again; put new supplies into: *We need to replenish the food cupboard|our stocks of coal.* | *Let me replenish your glass.* — ~**ment** *n* [U]

re·plete /rɪˈpliːt/ *adj* [F (**with**)] *fml* fully provided or filled, esp. with food: *He sat back replete at the end of the meal.* | *a book replete with maps and diagrams*

rep·li·ca /ˈreplɪkə/ *n* [(**of**)] a close copy, esp. of a painting or other work of art: *They built a replica of a Second World War plane.*

rep·li·cate /ˈreplɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *tech* to do or make again, esp. so as to get the same result or make an exact copy: *Can the experiment be replicated?* | *These tissue cells replicate themselves.* —**-cation** /ˌreplɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] : *The material inside our genes reproduces itself by replication.*

re·ply[1] /rɪˈplaɪ/ *v* [I (**to**);T] to answer; say or do as an answer: *I asked him where he was going, but he didn't reply.* | *Have you replied to him|to his letter?* | *What did she reply?* [+(*that*)] *She replied that she couldn't come.* | *"Of course not," she replied.* —see ANSWER (USAGE)

reply[2] *n* [(**to**)] something said, written or done as a way of replying: *I asked him, but he gave no reply.* | *What did you say* **in reply to** *his suggestion?* | *Her criticisms brought an immediate reply from a government spokesman.*

reply-paid /·ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a TELEGRAM, postcard, etc.) with the cost of the answer paid by the sender

re·po man /ˈriːpəʊ ˌmæn/ *n AmE infml* a person whose job is to take away (REPOSSESS) property, esp. cars, which the owners are unable to finish paying for

re·port[1] /rɪˈpɔːt‖-ɔːrt/ *n* **1** [C (**of, on**)] an account or description of events, experiences, business records, etc., which is prepared in order to provide people with information: *Did you read the newspaper reports of the accident?* | *the company's annual report* | *a weather report* | *an interim report on the progress of the arms control talks* **2** [C;U] (a piece of) talk that spreads without official support; RUMOUR: *According to report he's not coming back.* **3** [C] *BrE* ‖ **report card** /·ˈ· ·/ *AmE*— a written statement by teachers about a child's work at school, sent to his or her parents **4** [C] *fml* the noise of an explosion or shot: *a loud report* **5 The report of my death was an exaggeration** *quote* a phrase from a letter written by Mark Twain

report[2] *v* **1** [I (**on**);T (**to**)] to provide information (about) or give an account (of); make (something) known: *The committee of inquiry will not report until next year.* | *Any case of stealing should be reported immediately to the proper authorities.* | *They came back after a week to report (on) progress.* (=to say what had been done up to then) | *He reported sick.* (=said he could not work because he was sick) [+*v-ing*|*that*] *They reported having seen him in Brighton|that they had seen him in Brighton.* [+*obj*+*to-v*; *pass.*] *He is reported to have been seen in Brighton.*

[+*obj*+*adj*] *The ship was reported lost with all hands.* **2** [I (**on**)T] (of a reporter) to write or give an account of (a piece of news): *She reported the president's speech for the newspaper.* | *He cabled to say he had nothing to report, but hoped to get more information later.* | *Here is our Far East correspondent reporting from Japan on the earthquake.* **3** [T (**for, to**)] to make a complaint about: *He reported the boy (to the head teacher) (for smoking on the school premises).* **4** [I (**for, to**)] to go or be present: *While she's out on bail she has to report to the police every day.* | *They report for work at 8.0 a.m.* | *What time do you have to report at the airport?*

report (sthg. ↔) **back** *phr v* [I;T (**to**)] to bring or send back an account (of): *Go and find out what's happened and report back (to me) quickly!* [+*that*] *They reported back that enemy forces were moving towards the border.*

re·port·age /rɪˈpɔːtɪdʒ, ˌrepɔːˈtɑːʒ‖-ˈpɔːr-, ˌrepərˈtɑːʒ/ *n* [U] **1** the act of reporting news **2** the style in which this is usually done **3** writing, photographs, or film in this style, intended to give an account of an event

re·port·ed·ly /rɪˈpɔːtɪdli‖-ɔːr-/ *adv* according to what is said: *He is reportedly not intending to return to this country.*

reported speech /·ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] INDIRECT SPEECH

re·port·er /rɪˈpɔːtəʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n* a person who finds out and writes about news events for a newspaper, or for radio or television —compare JOURNALIST; see also COURT REPORTER

re·pose[1] /rɪˈpəʊz/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** (a state of) calm or comfortable rest; peace **2** calmness of manner; COMPOSURE — ~**ful** *adj*

repose[2] *v fml or pomp* **1** [I+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **on**] **a** to lie or be placed (on) **b** to lie dead: *His body reposed in state in the cathedral.* **2** [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*, esp. **on**] to place (an object or part of the body) on

repose sthg. **in** sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T] *fml* to place (trust, hopes, etc.) in: *We do not repose much confidence in his judgment.*

re·pos·i·to·ry /rɪˈpɒzɪtərɪ‖rɪˈpɑːzɪtɔːri/ *n* a place where things are stored or found in large quantity: *a furniture repository* | (fig.) *He's a repository of* (=has lots of) *all sorts of out-of-the-way knowledge.* | *The Black Hills are a rich repository of minerals.*

re·pos·sess /ˌriːpəˈzes/ *v* [T] to regain possession of (property), esp. when necessary payments have not been made: *The rental company are threatening to repossess the television.* —see also REPO MAN, MORTGAGE REPOSSESSION — ~**ion** /ˈzeʃən/ *n* [U] : *The landlord has applied for a* **repossession order**.

rep·re·hend /ˌreprɪˈhend/ *v* [T] *fml rare* to express disapproval of: *His conduct deserves to be reprehended.*

rep·re·hen·si·ble /ˌreprɪˈhensɪbəl/ *adj fml* (of a person or their behaviour) deserving to be blamed; extremely bad: *a reprehensible action* | *His conduct was reprehensible.* —**-bly** *adv*

rep·re·sent /ˌreprɪˈzent/ *v* **1** [T] **a** to act or speak officially for (another person or group of people): *She represented her fellow-workers at the union meeting.* | *He was represented in court by John Stevens, the famous criminal lawyer.* **b** to be the member of Parliament or Congress for (a place): *Does Mr Walker still represent Worcester?* | *She represents the 8th congressional district of Illinois.* **2** [T] to be a picture or STATUE of; DEPICT: *This painting represents the death of Nelson*/*represents Nelson dying at Trafalgar.* | *a tall stone figure representing the god of war* **3** [T] to be a sign of; SYMBOLIZE: *The red lines on the map represent railways.* **4** [L+*n*; *not in progressive forms*] to be; have the character of; CONSTITUTE: *This essay represents a considerable improvement on your recent work.* **5** [T *usu. pass.*] (of a member of a group) to be present as an example of (that group): *All the different races of the country were represented* (=were present) *at the parade.* **6** [T+*obj*+**as**/*to-v*] to describe or declare, perhaps falsely: *He represented himself as*/*to be a friend of the workers, but now we know the truth.*

represent sthg. **to** sbdy. *phr v* [T] *fml* to express or point out to, often angrily or complainingly: *You should represent your grievances*/*complaints to the management.*

re-pre·sent /ˌriːprɪˈzent/ *v* [T] to give or offer again; send in again: *They re-presented the bill for payment.*

rep·re·sen·ta·tion /ˌreprɪzenˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act of representing or state of being represented (REPRESENT (1)): *"No taxation without representation" means that if people pay taxes they should be represented in a parliament.* | *She appeared in court without representation.* (=without a lawyer) **2** [C (**of**)] something that REPRESENTS (2,3) something else: *This painting is a representation of a storm at sea.* | *the representation of speech sounds by phonetic symbols* —see also REPRESENTATIONS, PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

rep·re·sen·ta·tion·al /ˌreprɪzenˈteɪʃənəl◂/ *adj* (of a style of art, a painting, etc.) showing things as they actually appear in real life —compare ABSTRACT[1] (3)

rep·re·sen·ta·tions /ˌreprɪzenˈteɪʃənz/ *n* [P (**about, to**)] *esp. BrE* official complaints made in a formal way: *They* **made representations** *to the college authorities about the bad accommodation.*

rep·re·sen·ta·tive[1] /ˌreprɪˈzentətɪv/ *adj* **1** [(**of**)] typical; being an example of what other members of the same group or type are like: *a representative sample* | *Are your opinions representative of those of the other students?* | *If this is representative of the general quality of your work, I'm not very impressed.* —opposite **unrepresentative** **2** (of a system of government) in which the people and their opinions are represented

representative[2] *n* [(**of**)] a person who has been chosen to act in place of one or more others: *I couldn't be present myself, but I sent my representative to the meeting.* | *an elected representative of the people* —see also HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Representative *n* a member of the House of Representatives, the lower house of Congress in the United States, usu. called a Congresswoman or Congressman

re·press /rɪˈpres/ *v* [T] to control, hold back, or prevent the natural expression of (a feeling, desire, action, etc.): *a repressed child* | *repressed desires* | *I could hardly repress my laughter.* —compare SUPPRESS

re·pres·sion /rɪˈpreʃən/ *n* [C;U] the act of repressing or state of being repressed, esp. **a** the forcing of feelings or desires of which one is ashamed out of the conscious mind into the unconscious mind, often with strange effects upon one's behaviour: *sexual repression* **b** cruel and severe control: *political repression* —compare SUPPRESSION

re·pres·sive /rɪˈpresɪv/ *adj* (of a law, system of government, etc.) hard and cruel: *Under the general's repressive regime, thousands of people were imprisoned without trial.* — ~**ly** *adv* — ~**ness** *n* [U]

re·prieve[1] /rɪˈpriːv/ *v* [T *often pass.*] to give a reprieve to: *The prisoner was reprieved.* | (fig.) *The government was going to discontinue the youth training programme, but it's been reprieved.*

reprieve[2] *n* an official order delaying or stopping the punishment of a prisoner who was to die: *The Home Secretary granted him a reprieve the day before he was due to be hanged.* | *a last-minute reprieve*

rep·ri·mand /ˈreprɪmɑːnd‖-mænd/ *v* [T] to express strong official disapproval of: *The military court ordered him to be reprimanded for failing to do his duty.* —**reprimand** *n* : *She received a severe reprimand.*

re·print[1] /ˌriːˈprɪnt/ *v* [I;T] to print (a book) or be printed again when supplies have run out: *The book is reprinting — you'll be able to buy one soon.* | *The new dictionary has sold so well that it's had to be reprinted.*

re·print[2] /ˈriːˌprɪnt/ *n* a reprinted book

re·pri·sal /rɪˈpraɪzəl/ also **reprisals** *pl.*— *n* [C;U] (an act of) punishing others for harm done to oneself, esp. of a political or military kind: *Our government has threatened theirs with reprisals*/*threatened to* **carry out**/**take reprisals** *if they continue to infringe our fishing limits.* | *They bombed the enemy village in reprisal for*/*as a reprisal for the killing of some of their own troops.* | *a reprisal raid*

re·prise /rɪˈpriːz/ *n* a repeating of all or part of a piece of music

re·proach[1] /rɪˈprəʊtʃ/ *n* **1** [U] blame; the expression of disapproval: *She gave me a look of reproach.* | *His behaviour was* **above**/**beyond reproach**. (=perfect) **2** [C] *fml* a word or words of blame: *When he came home drunk his wife greeted him with loud reproaches.* **3** [S+**to**] *fml* something that deserves blame or brings shame; DISGRACE: *These derelict houses are a reproach to the city.* — ~**ful** *adj* : *a reproachful glance* — ~**fully** *adv*

reproach[2] *v* [T (**for, with**)] to blame (someone), usu. not angrily but sadly and in a way that shows disappointment: *It wasn't your fault – you have nothing to reproach yourself with.* (=to blame yourself for)

rep·ro·bate /ˈreprəbeɪt/ *n fml or humor* a person of bad character: *He's an old reprobate who spends all his money on beer.*

re·pro·cess /riːˈprəʊses‖-ˈprɑː-/ *v* [T] to treat (something that has been used) so that it can be used again: *the reprocessing of nuclear fuel*

re·pro·duce /ˌriːprəˈdjuːs‖-ˈduːs/ *v* [I;T] **1** to produce the young of (oneself or one's own kind): *Most fish reproduce (themselves) by laying eggs.* **2** to produce a copy (of); (cause to) be seen, heard, or done again: *This photograph of the painting reproduces the colours of the original extremely well.* | *They were unable to reproduce the results of the first experiment when they repeated it.* **–-ducer** *n* **–-ducible** *adj*

re·pro·duc·tion /ˌriːprəˈdʌkʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the act or process of producing young: *human reproduction* | *a biology lesson on the reproduction of the rabbit* **2** [U] the process of producing a copy: *The quality of reproduction isn't very good on this recording.* **3** [C (**of**)] a copy, esp. of a work of art, less exact than a REPLICA: *a cheap reproduction of a famous painting*

re·pro·duc·tive /ˌriːprəˈdʌktɪv◂/ *adj* **1** concerned with producing young: *the female reproductive system* **2** concerned with copying: *The reproductive quality of audio tapes has improved enormously.*

re·proof /rɪˈpruːf/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (an expression of) blame or disapproval: *You can scarcely expect to escape reproof for such irresponsible behaviour.*

re·prove /rɪˈpruːv/ *v* [T (**for**)] *fml* to talk to angrily or express disapproval of: *She reproved him for telling lies.*

re·prov·ing /rɪˈpruːvɪŋ/ *adj fml* expressing reproof: *a reproving glance* **– ~ly** *adv*

rep·tile /ˈreptaɪl‖ˈreptl/ *n* an animal whose blood changes temperature according to the temperature around it and that usu. lays eggs: *Snakes, lizards, and crocodiles are reptiles.*

rep·til·i·an[1] /repˈtɪliən/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] of, like, or being a reptile **2** *derog* (of a person) very unpleasant, dishonest, or untrustworthy; REPULSIVE

reptilian[2] *n tech* a reptile

re·pub·lic /rɪˈpʌblɪk/ *n* a nation, usu. governed by elected representatives, whose head of state is not a king or queen but a president: *Ireland is a republic.* | *The People's Republic of China* –compare MONARCHY (2); see also BANANA REPUBLIC, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

re·pub·li·can[1] /rɪˈpʌblɪkən/ *adj* belonging to or supporting a republic: *a republican system of government*

republican[2] *n* a person who disapproves of kings and queens, and believes in government by elected representatives only

Republican[1] *adj* **1** of or supporting the **Republican Party**, one of the two largest political parties of the US –compare DEMOCRATIC **2** of or supporting SINN FEIN

Republican[2] *n* **1** a member or supporter of the Republican Party of the US –compare DEMOCRAT **2** a member or supporter of SINN FEIN

Republican Guard /ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] (in Iraq) a special group of soldiers who were involved in the GULF WAR in 1990, as part of Saddam Hussein's army

re·pub·li·can·is·m /rɪˈpʌblɪkənɪzəm/ *n* [U] the beliefs or practices of republicans

Republicanism *n* [U] the beliefs or practices of the Republican Party of the US

Republican Par·ty /·ˈ··· ˌ··/ [*the*] one of the two main political parties in the US, also known as **the Republicans**. It was established in 1854 to oppose SLAVERY, and won its first presidential election with Abraham Lincoln in 1860. It is sometimes called the **Grand Old Party** or **GOP**, and is thought of as the party of big business and CONSERVATIVE politics but actually represents a wide range of views. –see also DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Republic of Ire·land /·ˌ·· · ˈ··/ also **Ireland, Irish Republic, Eire, Southern Ireland**– *n* [*the*] the country that forms the larger part of the island of Ireland; capital Dublin; population 3,515,000 (1989). The main industries are farming and tourism, and the main religion is Roman Catholicism. English and Gaelic are the official languages. The national SYMBOL of the Republic of Ireland is the SHAMROCK and the PATRON SAINT is Saint Patrick. –see also NORTHERN IRELAND and see colour map on page 818

re·pu·di·ate /rɪˈpjuːdieɪt/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to state that (something) is untrue or unjust: *I repudiate emphatically any suggestion that I may have acted dishonourably.* **2** to refuse to accept; REJECT: *He repudiated all offers of friendship.* **3** *old-fash* to refuse to meet or recognize; state that one has no connection with (someone); DISOWN: *He repudiated his daughter when she married without his consent.* **4** *tech* to refuse to pay (a debt) **–-ation** /rɪˌpjuːdiˈeɪʃən/ *n* [U]

re·pug·nance /rɪˈpʌgnəns/ *n* [S;U (**for**)] *fml* a feeling of strong dislike, often mixed with moral disapproval: *She turned away from the disgusting sight in|with repugnance.*

re·pug·nant /rɪˈpʌgnənt/ *adj fml* very unpleasant and offensive; causing repugnance: *I find his opinions repugnant.*

re·pulse[1] /rɪˈpʌls/ *v* [T] *fml* **1** to refuse in a cold, unfriendly, or impolite way; push away (a friendly person, or an offer of friendship) **2** to drive back (an enemy attack)

repulse[2] *n* **1** the military defeat of an attack **2** a rude refusal of friendship; REBUFF

re·pul·sion /rɪˈpʌlʃən/ *n* **1** [S;U] very strong dislike; REPUGNANCE: *For a lot of people, the sight of blood produces a feeling of repulsion.* **2** [U] *tech* (in science) the force by which one object drives another away from it –opposite **attraction**

re·pul·sive /rɪˈpʌlsɪv/ *adj* **1** very unpleasant; causing repulsion: *repulsive skin diseases* | *What a repulsive man!* **2** [*no comp.*] *tech* (in science) having REPULSION (2): *repulsive forces* **– ~ly** *adv* **– ~ness** *n* [U]

rep·u·ta·ble /ˈrepjʊtəbəl/ *adj* having a good reputation, esp. for being honest and dependable: *a reputable firm of builders* –opposite **disreputable** **–-bly** *adv*

rep·u·ta·tion /ˌrepjʊˈteɪʃən/ also **rep** *AmE infml*– *n* [C;U (**for**)] (an) opinion held about someone or something, esp. by people in general; the degree to which one is trusted or admired: *This restaurant has a good|bad reputation.* | *It has gained|acquired a reputation for good|bad food.* | *He has the reputation of being a tough manager.* | *If people find out what you're doing it will ruin your reputation.* | *It can be hard to live up to one's reputation.* (=to behave in the way people have come to expect) –compare CHARACTER (4)

re·pute /rɪˈpjuːt/ *n* [U] *fml or pomp* **1** reputation: *a man* **of good/evil repute** | *He is* **held in high repute**. (=people have a good opinion of him) **2** good reputation: *a hotel of (some) repute* **3 house of ill repute** *old fash or humor* a BROTHEL

re·put·ed /rɪˈpjuːtɪd/ *adj* generally supposed or considered (to be), but with some doubt: *the reputed father of her baby* [F+*to-v*] *She is reputed to be extremely wealthy.*

re·put·ed·ly /rɪˈpjuːtɪdli/ *adv* according to what people say: *Reputedly, she is very rich.*

re·quest[1] /rɪˈkwest/ *n* **1** [C (**for**)] an act of asking for something, esp. politely: *They have made an urgent request for international aid.* | *The President's request for an increase in the defense budget has been turned down by Congress.* [+*that*] *Despite repeated requests that they should make less noise, they persisted in playing their music at full volume.* **2** [U] the fact of being asked for, esp. politely: *The name of the murder victim was not published in the newspapers,* **at the request of** *the judge.* (=because the judge requested that it should not be PUBLISHED) | *Full details will be sent* **on request.** (=if you ask for them) **3** [C] something that has been asked for: *Do they play requests on this radio show?* (=records that have been asked for by listeners) | *I'm going to the coffee shop–any requests?* (=Does anyone want anything from there?)

request[2] *v* [T (**of**)] *rather fml* to ask (for), esp. politely; make a request (for): *Your presence is requested at the meeting.* | *This record has been requested by Mrs Simpson of Potters Bar.* (=she has asked for it to be played on the radio) [+*obj*+*to-v*] *All members of the club are requested to attend the annual meeting.* [+*that*] *The teaching staff requested (of the head teacher) that he should reconsider his decision.*

▷USAGE Compare **ask (for), request,** and **demand. Ask** is the usual word for speaking or writing to someone in order to get something done: *I* **asked** *one of my friends to help me*, and **ask for** the expression for trying to get something: *I* **asked for** *help*.**Request** is more formal and stronger; if you **request** something you usually have the right to get what you want: *The letter* **requested** *us to leave the house within six weeks.* | *I* **requested** *assistance.* **Demand** is even stronger; if you **demand** something, you feel strongly that you have the right to get it, and will not take "no" for an answer. *The dissatisfied customer* **demanded** *to see the manager of the store.* | *I* **demand** *my rights.*◁

request stop /ˈ· ˈ·/ *BrE*‖**flag stop** *AmE*– *n* a place where buses stop only if they are asked to do so, esp. by someone signalling with their hand

req·ui·em /ˈrekwiəm, ˈrekwiem/ also **requiem mass** /ˌ··· ˈ·/– *n* (a piece of music written for) a Christian religious ceremony (MASS) for a dead person, at which people pray for his or her soul; these are performed on ALL SOULS DAY and at FUNERALS, or on request

re·quire /rɪˈkwaɪəʳ/ *v* [T *not in progressive forms*] **1** *rather fml* to need or make necessary: *This suggestion will require careful thought.* | *Is there anything further you require, sir?* [+*v-ing*] *To carry out this plan would require increasing our staff by 50%.* [+*that*] *The urgency of the situation requires that we (should) make an immediate decision.* **2** [(**of**)] *fml* to demand by right; give an order (for or to), with the expectation that it will be obeyed: *Silence is required of all examination candidates.* [+*obj*+*to-v*] *All passengers are required to show their tickets.* [+*that*] *The regulations require that all students shall attend at least 90 per cent of the lectures.* | *This book is* **required reading** *for our course.* (=you must read it)

re·quire·ment /rɪˈkwaɪəmənt‖-ˈkwaɪər-/ *n* something that is needed or that is demanded as necessary: *The refugees' main requirements are food and shelter.* | *Can this computer handle the requirements of the wages department?* | *Candidates who fail to meet* (=satisfy) *these requirements will not be admitted to the University.*

req·ui·site[1] /ˈrekwɪzɪt/ *adj* [(**for**)] *fml* needed for a purpose; necessary: *He hasn't got the requisite qualifications for this job.*

requisite[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] *fml* something needed for or used in connection with the stated thing: *toilet requisites* (=soap, SHAMPOO, COLOGNE, etc.)

req·ui·si·tion[1] /ˌrekwɪˈzɪʃən/ *n* [C;U (**for**)] an official demand or request, esp. one made by a military body: *The school authorities have made a requisition for more computing equipment.* | *to fill in a requisition form*

requisition[2] *v* [T] to make a requisition for: *The army requisitioned all our stores of petrol.*

re·quit·al /rɪˈkwaɪtl/ *n* [U] *fml* **1** repayment for something done or given: *I have made full requital.* **2** something given or done in return for something else

re·quite /rɪˈkwaɪt/ *v* [T (**with**)] *fml* to pay back (something): *Our kindness and trust was requited only with dishonesty on their part.* –see also UNREQUITED

rere·dos /ˈrɪədɒs‖ˈrɪərdɑːs, ˈreərədɑːs/ *n* a decorative wall or large wall-like work of art behind an ALTAR in a church

re·route /ˌriːˈruːt‖-ˈruːt, -ˈraʊt/ *v* [T] to send (usu. vehicles) another way: *Traffic is being rerouted.*

re·run[1] /riːˈrʌn/ *v* **-ran** /ˈræn/, **-run** *present participle* **-running** [T] **1** to show (a film or recorded broadcast) again: *They rerun so many old films on television.* **2** to arrange for (a race or competition) to be held again: *One of the competitors was found to have cheated, so the race had to be rerun.*

re·run[2] /ˈriːrʌn/ *n* **1** a film or recorded broadcast that is rerun **2** something that happens again in the same way as before: *These measures were taken in order to avert a rerun of the Three Mile Island disaster.*

re·sale shop /ˈriːseɪl ˌʃɒp‖-ˌʃɑːp/ *n AmE* a shop that sells used goods, usu. to raise money for a CHARITY

re·sched·ule /ˌriːˈʃedjuːl‖-ˈskedʒʊl, -dʒəl/ *v* [T] *tech* to arrange for (money which one has been lent) to be paid back at a later time than was originally agreed

re·scind /rɪˈsɪnd/ *v* [T] *law* to put an end to (a law, decision, or agreement); ANNUL or REPEAL

res·cue[1] /ˈreskjuː/ *v* [T (**from**)] to save or set free from harm, danger, or loss: *He rescued the man from drowning|the cat from the high tree|his stamp collection from the burning house.* | *She clung to the floating wreckage for hours before she was rescued.* | *a final attempt to rescue the company from bankruptcy* –**cuer** *n*

rescue[2] *n* an act of rescuing: *a daring rescue carried out at sea* | *A rescue team is trying to reach the trapped miners.* | *We were about to close down the business, but the bank* **came to our rescue** (=saved us) *with a huge loan.* | *a rescue attempt*

re·search[1] /rɪˈsɜːtʃ, ˈriːsɜːtʃ‖-ɜːr-/ also **researches** *pl.*– *n* [U (**in, into, on**)] serious and detailed study of a subject, that is aimed at learning new facts, scientific laws, testing ideas, etc.: *a very interesting piece of research* | *They are carrying out|doing some research into|on the effects of brain damage.* | *Will they publish the results of their research|researches?* | *research students|workers* | *a research laboratory* –see also MARKET RESEARCH, R AND D

re·search[2] /rɪˈsɜːtʃ‖-ɜːr-/ *v* **1** [I (**in, into, on**)] to do research: *I'm researching in medieval history.* | *They're researching on|into the effects of cigarette smoking.* **2** [T] to do research on or for: *to research a subject* | *This book has been very well researched.* –~**er** *n*

research and de·vel·op·ment /ˈ·ˌ· · ·ˈ···, ˌ·· · ·ˈ···/ *n* [U] see R AND D

re·sem·blance /rɪˈzembləns/ *n* [C;U (**between, to**)] (a) similarity, esp. in appearance; likeness: *There's a strong resemblance between Susan and Robert.* | *He didn't* **bear much resemblance** *to the man whose photo I'd seen.* | *a certain resemblance between the styles of the two writers*

re·sem·ble /rɪˈzembəl/ *v* [T (**in**) *not in progressive forms; no pass.*] to look like or be like: *She resembles her sister in appearance but not in character.*

re·sent /rɪˈzent/ *v* [T] to feel anger and dislike about (something that hurts, offends, or annoys one): *I strongly|bitterly resent her attempts to interfere in my work.* [+*v-ing*] *I resent having to get his permission for everything I do.* –~**ful** *adj*: *She gave him a resentful look.* –~**fully** *adv* –~**fulness** *n* [U]

re·sent·ment /rɪˈzentmənt/ *n* [U (**at, against, towards**)] the feeling of resenting something; feeling that one has been badly treated: *There is widespread resentment against the management over the way they have ignored all our demands.*

res·er·va·tion /ˌrezəˈveɪʃən‖-zər-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) feeling of doubt or uncertainty, esp. when one's agreement with something is in some way limited: *Some members of the committee expressed reservations about these proposals.* | *We accept their offer|condemn their action* **without reservation.** (=completely) | *I have some reservations about the truth of these claims.* (=I find it hard to believe them) **2** [C *often pl*] an arrangement made in advance to have something, such as a place in a hotel, restaurant, or on a plane; BOOKING: *Have you made the reservations for our holiday yet?* | *a hotel reservation* | *They are only seating people with reservations.* **3** [C] (in the US) a piece of land set apart for Native Americans to live on; these have been a problem since they were established. Many Native Americans died because of the change of lifestyle, and there are still arguments about ownership of the land. –see also NATIVE AMERICAN **4** [C] *esp. AmE* an area of land set apart for animals to live unharmed, without being hunted: *a game|wildlife reservation* –see also CENTRAL RESERVATION

re·serve[1] /rɪˈzɜːv‖-ɜːrv/ *v* [T] **1** [(**for**)] to set apart, set aside, or keep for a special purpose: *These seats are reserved for old and sick people.* | *He reserved his rudest comments for the boss.* **2** to make a RESERVATION (2): *Have you reserved our seats on the plane?*

reserve[2] *n* **1** [C (**of**);U] also **reserves** *pl.*– a quantity of something kept for future use; store: *We must keep back a reserve|some reserves of food.* | *We always keep some money* **in reserve**. (=ready for use if needed) **2** [C] a piece of land set aside for wild animals, plants, etc.: *a nature|wildlife reserve* **3** [C] a player who will play in a team game if any other member of the team is hurt or cannot play **4** [U] the quality of being RESERVED (1): *behaving with typical British reserve* **5** [*the*] also **reserves** *pl.*– (*often cap.*) a military force that a country keeps, in addition to its regular forces, for use if needed: *to call up the reserve(s)* –see also RESERVIST **6** [C] also **reserve**

price /·ˌ· ˈ·/‖**upset price** *AmE–* a price limit below which something is not to be sold, esp. in an AUCTION: *They put a reserve of £30,000 on the house.* **7 without reserve** *fml* freely and openly: *She told me all about it without reserve.*

re·served /rɪˈzɜːvd‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* **1** (typical of people) who do not like to talk about themselves or to show their feelings; SHY: *Bob is very reserved – you never know what he's thinking.* **2** kept for the future or special use: *reserved seats/tables* –see also UNRESERVED – **~ly** *adv*

Reserve Of·fi·cer Train·ing Corps /·ˌ· ··· ˈ·· ·/ [*the*] *AmE* see ROTC

re·serv·ist /rɪˈzɜːvɪst‖-ɜːr-/ *n* a soldier who can be called at any time of difficulty to serve in a country's army

res·er·voir /ˈrezəvwɑːr‖-ərvwɑːr, -vɔːr/ *n* **1** a place where liquid is stored, esp. an artificial lake to provide water for an area **2** [+**of**] also **reservoirs** *pl.*– a large supply, esp. one that has not yet been used: *We must make use of our untapped reservoirs of talent.* (=useful and clever people)

re·set[1] /ˌriːˈset/ *v* **-set,** *present participle* **-setting** [T] **1** to change so as to show a different number, time, etc.: *She reset her watch when her flight from London arrived in New York.* | *Reset the dial at zero.* **2** to put (a broken bone) back in place for a second time **3** to make up TYPE[1] (2) again for (something to be printed): *The book had to be reset because there were so many mistakes in the first printing.* **4** to put (a jewel) into a new arrangement of jewellery **5** to BOOT[3] (a small computer)

reset[2] /ˈriːset/ *adj* causing to reset (1 and 5): *Next time that happens just push the reset button.*

re·set·tle /riːˈsetl/ *v* [I;T] to (help to) go to live in a new country or area: *Many Ugandan Asian families resettled in Canada in the 1970s.* | *tribespeople who were forcibly resettled by the government* – **~ment** *n* [U] : *a land resettlement programme*

re·shuf·fle[1] /riːˈʃʌfəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to SHUFFLE (playing cards) again **2** [T] to carry out a reshuffle of: *The prime minister reshuffled her cabinet.*

reshuffle[2] *n* a process of changing around the positions of the people who work in an organization, esp. in government: *a cabinet reshuffle*

re·side /rɪˈzaɪd/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *fml* to have one's home: *They reside abroad.* | *The defendant resides at 8, New Road.* – see LIVE (USAGE)

reside in sthg./sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *fml* (of a power, right, etc.) to belong to: *The power to change the law resides in Parliament.*

res·i·dence /ˈrezɪdəns/ *n fml* **1** [C] the place where one lives; a house, esp. a large important one: *the ambassador's official residence* | *desirable residence for sale* (advertisement) | (*humor*) *How nice of you to visit me at my humble residence!* **2** [U] the state of residing: *He* **took up residence** (=went to live) *in Jamaica.* **3 in residence** actually living in a place, esp. **a** (of an official) in the official house **b** (of a student) at the university: *The students are not in residence during the holidays.* –see also HALL OF RESIDENCE, IN-RESIDENCE

res·i·dent[1] /ˈrezɪdənt/ *adj* [(**in**)] living (in a place): *The ex-chairman, now resident in Spain, is accused of embezzling company funds.* | *a resident doctor* (=living in the hospital) | (*humor*) *He's our resident expert on horse racing.*

resident[2] *n* a person who lives in a place, such as a house, hotel or particular area, all the time or just while working, studying, or visiting: *This hotel serves meals to residents only.* (=only to people who sleep there)

res·i·den·tial /ˌrezɪˈdenʃəl◂/ *adj* **1** (of part of a town) consisting of private houses, without offices or factories: *a quiet residential street/area in Leeds* **2** for which one must live or stay in a place for a certain period: *It's a residential course, so bring your pyjamas.* | *You can't vote in this country unless you've got residential qualifications.*

residential care /ˌ···· ˈ·/ *n* [U] a system of care for old or ill people who are unable to look after themselves at home, and need nursing or other professional care which their families cannot provide

residential treat·ment fa·cil·i·ty /ˌ···· ˈ·· ·ˌ···/ *n AmE tech or euph for* MENTAL HOSPITAL

resident's as·so·ci·a·tion /ˈ··· ···ˌ··/ *n* [+*sing./pl.v*] an association of people who all live in the same building or local area, formed to deal with matters which concern them

re·sid·u·al /rɪˈzɪdʒuəl/ *adj fml* left over; remaining: *There was still some residual unrest after the rebellion had been crushed.* | *one's* **residual income,** *after all taxes have been paid*

residual cur·rent de·vice /·ˌ·· ˈ·· ·ˌ·/ also **circuit breaker**– *n* a safety DEVICE used with certain electrical APPLIANCES such as LAWNMOWERS, which cuts off the supply of electricity in the event of an accident such as the wires being cut, to prevent electrocution (ELECTROCUTE)

res·i·due /ˈrezɪdjuː‖-duː/ *n* [(**of**) *usu. sing.*] *tech* what is left, esp. **a** (in law) after a dead person's debts and gifts have been settled: *The residue of the estate goes to his daughter.* **b** (in science) after chemical treatment: *a sticky residue in the bottom of the test tube*

re·sign /rɪˈzaɪn/ *v* [I (**from**); T] **1** to give up (a job or position): *If Paul resigns, who will get the job?* | *She resigned from the committee/resigned as a member of the committee.* | *He resigned his post because he had been offered a better job.* –compare RETIRE **2 resign oneself to** to cause or allow (oneself) to accept (something unpleasant which cannot be avoided) calmly or patiently: *He seems quite resigned to his fate.* | *You must resign yourselves to waiting a bit longer.* –see also RESIGNED

res·ig·na·tion /ˌrezɪgˈneɪʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act or written statement of) resigning: *You have the choice between resignation and dismissal.* | *He handed/sent in his resignation.* **2** [U] the state of being resigned: *He accepted his fate with resignation.*

re·signed /rɪˈzaɪnd/ *adj* typical of a person who has resigned himself/herself to something unpleasant: *"I didn't really want it anyway," he said with a resigned sigh.* – **~ly** /rɪˈzaɪnɪdli/ *adv* : *"I suppose it was bound to happen," she said resignedly.*

re·sil·i·ent /rɪˈzɪliənt/ *adj* **1** (of a substance) able to spring back to the former shape or position when pressure is removed: *Rubber is more resilient than wood.* **2** *apprec* able to return quickly to usual health or good spirits after going through difficulty, disease, change, etc.: *It's been a terrible shock, but she's very resilient and will get over it soon.* – **~ly** *adv* –**-ence, -ency** *n* [U] : *Rubber has more resilience than wood.*

res·in /ˈrezɪn/ *n* **1** [U] a thick sticky liquid that comes out of certain trees such as the FIR, and later becomes a hard yellow substance. It is used for making paint, in medicine, and as ROSIN. **2** [C] any of various artificial plastic substances, produced chemically and used in industry – **~ous** *adj*

res·in·at·ed /ˈrezɪneɪtɪd/ *adj* mixed with or tasting of RESIN (1): *Resinated wine is drunk in Greece.*

re·sist /rɪˈzɪst/ *v* **1** [I;T] to oppose; fight against (something): *The city resisted the enemy onslaught for two weeks.* | *The government are resisting the nurses' wage demands.* | *He was charged with resisting arrest.* **2** [T] to remain unchanged or unharmed by: *Lack of proper nourishment reduces their power to resist disease.* | *You need a roof that will resist the weather.* **3** [I;T *usu. in negatives*] to force or allow oneself not to accept: *I can't resist chocolate mints.* (=I like them very much) | *She's such a charming girl; it's hard to resist her.* (=to refuse to give her what she wants) [+*v-ing*] *I couldn't resist telling him the secret.* (=I had to tell him) – **~er** *n*

re·sist·ance /rɪˈzɪstəns/ *n* **1** [S;U (**to**)] an act of resisting or the ability to resist: *The defenders put up (a) strong resistance.* | *There has been a lot of resistance* (=opposition) *to this new law.* | *We took* **the line of least resistance** (=the easiest way) *and paid the money instead of arguing.* | *the baby's resistance to disease* | *The escaped criminal offered no resistance when the police caught up with him.* –see also SALES RESISTANCE **2** [U] the stated force opposed to anything moving: *The aircraft is streamlined to cut down wind resistance.* **3** [U] the power of a substance to RESIST (2) the passing through it of an electric current: *Copper has less resistance than lead.* – compare VOLTAGE **4** [(*the*) U+*sing./pl. v*] (*often cap.*) an organization that fights secretly against an enemy that has defeated and now controls its country, esp. that of France in the Second World War **5** [C] a RESISTOR

re·sis·tant /rɪˈzɪstənt/ *adj* [(**to**)] (*often in comb.*) having or showing resistance: *This new type of infection is resistant*

to antibiotics. | *a disease-resistant variety of wheat*

re·sis·tor /rɪˈzɪstəʳ/ *n* a piece of wire or other material used for increasing electrical RESISTANCE (3)

re·sit /ˌriːˈsɪt/ *v* **-sat** /ˈsæt/, *present participle* **-sitting** [T] *esp. BrE* to take (an examination) again —**re-sit** /ˈriːsɪt/ *n*

res·o·lute /ˈrezəluːt/ *adj fml, apprec* (of a person or their character) firm; determined in purpose: *a resolute optimist* | *Be resolute (in your efforts).* —opposite **irresolute** —~**ly** *adv* : *They defended the city resolutely.*

res·o·lu·tion /ˌrezəˈluːʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a formal decision or statement made by the vote of a group: *All those in favour of the resolution should raise their hands.* [+*to-v*|*that*] *The committee have passed*|*carried*|*adopted*|*rejected a resolution to build a new library*|*a resolution that a new library (should) be built.* **2** [C] a firm decision; something one makes up one's mind to do or stop doing: *She's always making good resolutions but she never carries them out.* [+*to-v*] *I've made a* **New Year** (*BrE*)‖**Year's** (*AmE*) **resolution** (=one made on January 1st for the year ahead) *to stop smoking.* —compare RESOLVE² (1) **3** also **res·o·lute·ness** /ˈrezəluːtn̩s/— [U] *apprec* the quality of being resolute; DETERMINATION: *She lacks resolution.* **4** [U] the action of resolving (RESOLVE¹ (1)) something: *The lawyer's advice led to the resolution of this difficult problem.* **5** [U+**of, into**] (in science) the process of breaking up into parts: *the resolution of a chemical mixture into simple substances* **6** [C;U] (a measure of) the power of a scientific instrument to give a clear picture of things that are very small or close together: *a high-resolution microscope*|*computer screen*

re·sol·va·ble /rɪˈzɒlvəbəl‖-ˈzɑːl-, -ˈzɔːl-/ *adj* **1** that can be resolved: *This difficulty should be easily resolvable.* **2** [F+**into**] that can be resolved into parts: *This mixture is resolvable into two simple substances.*

re·solve¹ /rɪˈzɒlv‖rɪˈzɑːlv, rɪˈzɔːlv/ *v* **1** [T] to find a satisfactory way of dealing with (a difficulty); settle: *to resolve a dispute* | *There weren't enough beds, but the matter was resolved by George sleeping on the sofa.* **2** [I+**on**; T+*to-v*|*that*; ~~*obj*~~] to make a determined decision; decide firmly: *Once she has resolved on doing it, you won't get her to change her mind.* | *He resolved to work harder*|*that he would work harder.* **3** [I+*adv*|*prep*; T+*to-v*|*that*; ~~*obj*~~] (of a committee or public body) to make a RESOLUTION: *The committee resolved on*|*against appointing a new secretary.*| *Parliament has resolved that ...* | *The Senate resolved, by 70 votes to 30, to accept the President's budget proposals.*

resolve (sthg.) **into** sthg. *phr v* [T] to separate or become separated into (parts): *The problem can be resolved into two areas of misunderstanding.* | *This mixture will resolve into two separate compounds.*

resolve² *n fml* **1** [C] a RESOLUTION (2): [+*to-v*] *He made a firm resolve to give up drinking and smoking.* **2** [U] *apprec* RESOLUTION (3): *Her encouragement and support strengthened our resolve.*

res·o·nance /ˈrezənəns/ *n* **1** [U] the quality of being RESONANT (1): *the resonance of his voice* **2** [C;U] (a) sound produced or increased in one object by sound waves from another: *Playing the piano sets up resonance(s) in those glass ornaments.*

res·o·nant /ˈrezənənt/ *adj* **1** (of a sound) deep, loud, clear, and continuing: *the resonant note of a bell* | *a resonant voice* **2** producing RESONANCE (2) **3** [F+**with**] (of a place) filled with the stated sound: *The air was resonant with the shouts of children.* —~**ly** *adv*

res·o·nate /ˈrezəneɪt/ *v* [I] **1** to produce RESONANCE (2) **2** (of a sound) to be RESONANT (1)

res·o·na·tor /ˈrezəneɪtəʳ/ *n* an apparatus for increasing the RESONANCE (2) of sound, as in a musical instrument

re·sort¹ /rɪˈzɔːt‖-ɔːrt/ *n* **1** [C] a place where people regularly go for holidays: *Brighton is one of the most popular resorts on the south coast of England.* | *skiing resorts* | *a health resort* (=place considered good for the health) **2** [U+(**to**)] *fml* the action of resorting to something: *If this can't be settled reasonably, it may be necessary to* **have resort to** *force.* | *He couldn't have passed the exam without resort to cheating.* | **As a/In the last resort** (=if everything else fails) *we could borrow more money from the bank.* —compare RECOURSE

resort² *v*

resort to sthg. *phr v* [T] to make use of; turn to (often something bad) for help: *When polite requests failed he resorted to threats.* [+*v-ing*] *She resorted to stealing when she had no more money.*

re·sound /rɪˈzaʊnd/ *v* [I] **1** [(**with**)] (of a place) to be filled with sound; ECHO: *The hall resounded with laughter and whistles.* **2** [(**through, throughout**)] (of a musical instrument, a sound, etc.) to be loudly and clearly heard: *The (notes of the) hunting horn resounded through the forest.* —compare REVERBERATE

re·sound·ing /rɪˈzaʊndɪŋ/ *adj* **1** [A] (of a sound) loud and clear; echoing (ECHO²): *They all gave three resounding cheers.* **2** very great; complete: *a resounding victory*|*defeat*|*failure* —~**ly** *adv*

re·source¹ /rɪˈzɔːs, -ˈsɔːs‖-ɔːrs, ˈriːsɔːrs/ *n* **1** [C *usu. pl.*] any of the possessions or qualities of a person, an organization, or esp. a country: *Oil is Kuwait's most important natural resource.* | *a country rich in mineral resources* (=such as metal, coal, oil, etc. in the ground) | *The job called for all my resources of energy and patience.* | *This country is wasting its resources and manpower on building old-fashioned ships.* | *Resource management is an important business skill.* **2** [C] a means of comfort or help; something one turns to when one is in difficulty: *Religion is her only resource now.* | *She has* **inner resources** *of courage.* **3** [U] also **re·source·ful·ness** /rɪˈzɔːsfəlnn̩s, -ˈsɔːs-‖-ɔːr-/— [U] *apprec* cleverness in finding a way to avoid difficulties; practical ability: *a man of great resource* **4 leave someone to their own resources** to leave someone to act as they wish or to do the best they can, esp. in a difficult situation

re·source² /rɪˈzɔːs, -ˈsɔːs‖-ɔːrs/ *v* [T] to provide (money or other resources) for: *The FTC will resource the new study.*| *The program failed because it wasn't adequately resourced.* —see also UNDERRESOURCE

re·source·ful /rɪˈzɔːsfəl, -ˈsɔːs-‖-ɔːr-/ *adj apprec* good at finding ways to deal with difficult situations: *It was very resourceful of her to make that shelter out of old packing cases.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

re·spect¹ /rɪˈspekt/ *n* **1** [U (**for**)] the feeling that one admires someone or something very much and that they or it should be treated well and honourably: *Show some respect to*|*Have some respect for your parents.* | *He* **commands the respect of** (=has earned the respect of) *all who know him well.* | (used formally to introduce an expression of disagreement) **With (the greatest) respect**|**With due respect,** *I think you're wrong.* —opposite **disrespect**; see also RESPECTS, SELF-RESPECT **2** [U (**for**)] consideration or care: *Out of respect for the wishes of her family, the affair was not reported in the newspapers.* | *If they had any respect for human life they wouldn't do such terrible things.* **3** [**in**+C] a detail; particular point: *This room is fine except in one respect — what can I sit on?* | *In many respects the new version is less good than the old one.* **4 in respect of** *fml* **a** concerning; with regard to **b** (esp. in business letters) in payment for: *He will be paid £100 in respect of the work he has done.* **5 without respect to** without considering; without regard to: *Anyone can join the club, without respect to class, race, or sex.* —see also IRRESPECTIVE **6 with respect to** (used esp. to introduce a new subject or one that has been mentioned earlier) concerning: *With respect to your other proposals, I am not yet able to tell you our decision.*

respect² *v* [T] **1** to feel respect for (esp. a person or their qualities): *He's a man much respected by all his colleagues.* | *I deeply respect her courage.* **2** to show careful consideration for: *I promise to respect your wishes.* | *Please respect* (=obey) *the no smoking sign as long as it appears.* —see also SELF-RESPECTING

re·spec·ta·bil·i·ty /rɪˌspektəˈbɪlɪ̤ti/ *n* [U] the quality of being RESPECTABLE (1): *They got married for the sake of respectability.*

re·spec·ta·ble /rɪˈspektəbəl/ *adj* **1** showing standards of behaviour, appearance, etc. that are socially acceptable, but may be thought of as boring and lacking in excitement, unwilling to take risks etc.: *What an outrageous suggestion, young man — I'm a respectable married woman!* | *It's not respectable to be drunk in the street.* | *I must go and put on a clean shirt and make myself look respectable!* | *(derog) I'd never marry her; she's too respectable!* **2** *infml* quite good; enough in amount or quality: *England's football team won three matches out of five*

– quite a respectable total. | *a respectable income* –**-bly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

re·spect·er /rɪ'spektəʳ/ *n* [(**of**) *usu. in negatives*] someone or something that shows RESPECT[1] (1,2): *He's* **no respecter of persons.** (=does not respect rich or important people any more than ordinary people) | *A hurricane is no respecter of property.*

re·spect·ful /rɪ'spektfəl/ *adj* [(**to**)] feeling or showing RESPECT[1] (1): *The crowd stood in respectful silence as the funeral procession went by.* –opposite **disrespectful** – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

re·spect·ing /rɪ'spektɪŋ/ *prep fml* concerning; in respect of (RESPECT[1] (4a))

re·spec·tive /rɪ'spektɪv/ *adj* [A] of or for each one; particular and separate: *The two friends said goodbye and went to their respective homes.*

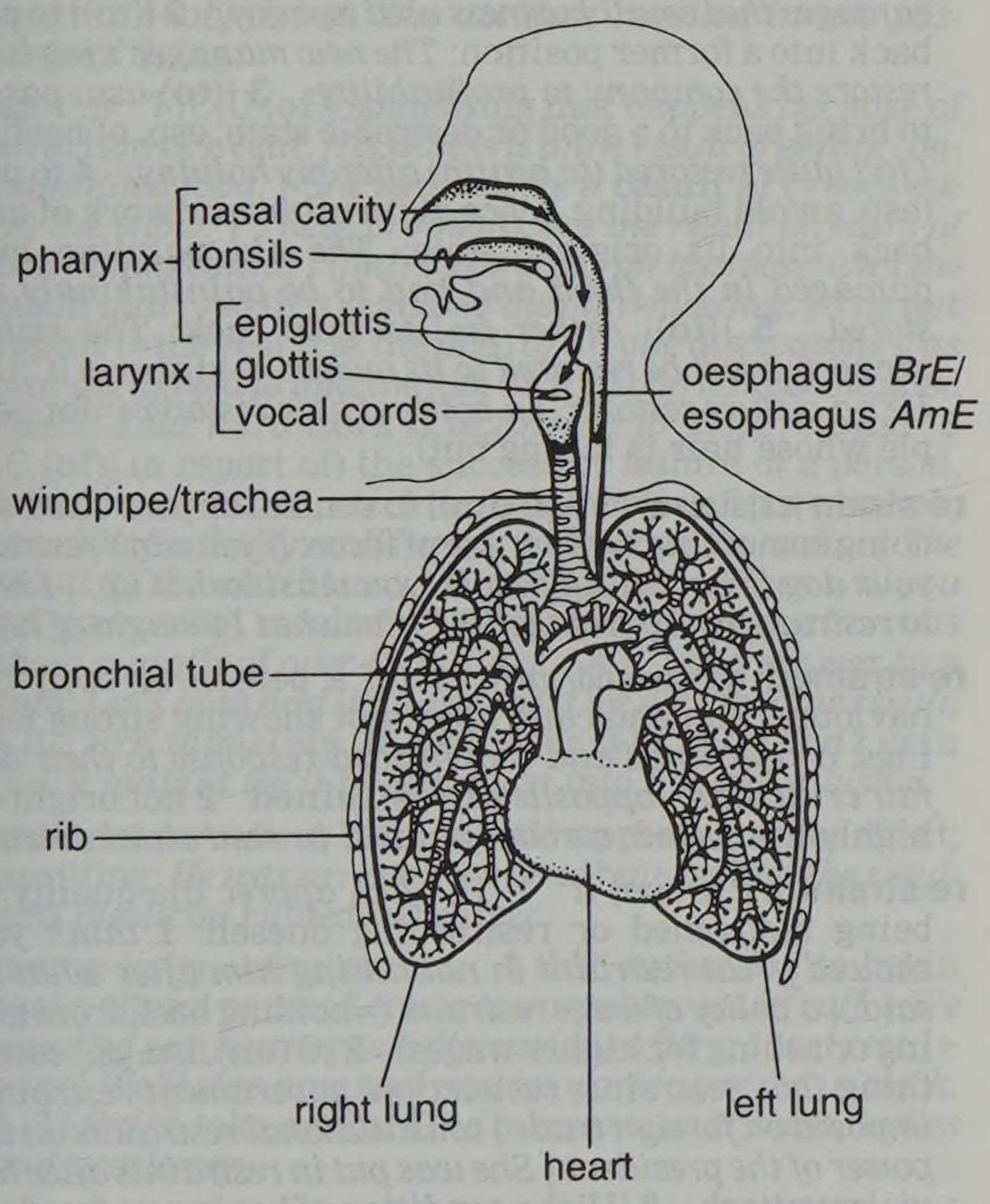
re·spec·tive·ly /rɪ'spektɪvli/ *adv* each separately in the order mentioned: *The nurses and the miners got pay rises of 5% and 7% respectively.* (=the nurses got 5% and the miners got 7%)

re·spects /rɪ'spekts/ *n* [P] **1** one's polite formal greetings; good wishes: *Give my respects to your wife.* | *Please send them my respects when you write.* **2 pay one's respects to** *fml* to pay a polite visit to (a person): *I've come to pay my respects to the countess.*

res·pi·ra·tion /ˌrespɨ'reɪʃən/ *n* [U] *fml or tech* breathing: *Respiration becomes difficult at great heights.* –see also ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION

res·pi·ra·tor /'respɨreɪtəʳ/ *n* an apparatus that is worn over the nose and mouth, to help people to breathe in spite of gas, smoke, etc.: *The firemen wore respirators.*

the respiratory system



re·spi·ra·to·ry /rɪ'spɪrətəri, 'respɨreɪtəri, rɪ'spaɪərə-‖ 'respərətɔːri, rɪ'spaɪərə-/ *adj fml or tech* connected with breathing: *respiratory diseases|difficulties* | *the respiratory system* (=the lungs and the tubes leading to them)

re·spire /rɪ'spaɪəʳ/ *v* [I] *tech* to breathe

res·pite /'respɪt, -paɪt‖-pɪt/ *n* [C *usu. sing.*;U] **1** [(**from**)] (a short period of) pause or rest, during a time of great effort, pain, or trouble: *a welcome|much needed respite from the continual hard work* | *The noise went on all night* **without (a moment's) respite.** **2** a welcome period of delay before doing or suffering something unpleasant; REPRIEVE: *The office will be shut until Monday, so we have a few days' respite before we need to pay the rent.*

re·splen·dent /rɪ'splendənt/ *adj fml or pomp* bright and shining; splendid in appearance: *the resplendent colours of the New England woods in autumn* | (fig.) *George arrived, resplendent in a new white suit.* – ~**ly** *adv*: *resplendently dressed in purple silk* –**dence** *n* [U]

re·spond /rɪ'spɒnd‖rɪ'spɑːnd/ *v* **1** [I (**to**);T] to say or write (something) in reply: *They still haven't responded to my letter.* | *"Yes, I'd love to come," he responded.* [+*that*] *He responded that he would come.* –see ANSWER (USAGE) **2** [I (**by, to, with**)] to do something in answer; REACT: *He responded (to my suggestion) with a laugh|by laughing.* **3** [I (**to**)] (esp. of a disease or a part of the body that is hurt) to get better as a result of treatment; REACT favourably: *The disease failed to respond to the drugs.* | *Is her leg responding to treatment?*

▷USAGE Compare **respond** and **react**. In many contexts they are used with the same meaning but **react** has a sense of being more immediate and sometimes resulting from feeling more than thought, while **respond** suggests that some consideration has been involved. We may want to know someone's **reaction** simply from CURIOSITY but if we want to know their **response** it is because we need the information in order to make a decision, etc.◁

re·spon·dent /rɪ'spɒndənt‖rɪ'spɑːn-/ *n law* a person who has to answer a charge in a law court, esp. in a DIVORCE case –compare CORESPONDENT

re·sponse /rɪ'spɒns‖rɪ'spɑːns/ *n* **1** [C (**to**)] a reply: *I asked him a question but he made|gave no response.* | *There have been several responses to our advertisement.* **2** [C;U (**to**)] (an) action done in answer: *There's been a generous response|a lukewarm response to the appeal on behalf of the earthquake victims.* | *Our call for new suggestions evoked* (=produced) *very little response.* | *She opened the door* **in response** *to the knock.* **3** [C *usu. pl.*] any of the parts of a religious service that are said or sung by the CONGREGATION (=people in a place of worship) in answer to the parts sung by the priest –see RESPOND (USAGE)

re·spon·si·bil·i·ty /rɪˌspɒnsɨ'bɪlɨti‖rɪˌspɑːn-/ *n* **1** [U (**for**)] the condition or quality of being responsible: *I* **take (full) responsibility** *for losing the money.* (=I admit that it was my fault) | *The defence secretary has responsibility for* (=is responsible for) *the upkeep of the armed forces.* | *A terrorist organization has* **claimed responsibility for** *the bombing.* | *a position of great responsibility in the government* | *We have joint responsibility* (=we share the responsibility) *for the running of the company.* **2** [U] the quality of being sensible and trustworthy: *Now that you're 13 you should have more sense of responsibility.* –opposite **irresponsibility** **3** [C] something for which one is RESPONSIBLE (2): *The head of a large company has many responsibilities.* | *It's your responsibility to make the decision.* **4 do something on one's own responsibility** to do something without being told or officially allowed to

re·spon·si·ble /rɪ'spɒnsɨbəl‖rɪ'spɑːn-/ *adj* **1** [F (**for**)] having done or been the cause of esp. something bad; guilty: *Who's responsible for this terrible mess?* | *These tax laws are responsible for a lot of hardship.* | *It was your idea, so if anything goes wrong I shall hold you personally responsible.* **2** [F (**for, to**)] having the duty of looking after someone or something, so that one can be blamed if things go wrong: *The teacher made me responsible (to her) for keeping the class in order while she went out.* **3** *apprec* sensible, trustworthy, and able to make good moral and practical judgments: *You can leave the children with him – he's very responsible.* –opposite **irresponsible** **4** (of a job) needing a trustworthy person to do it: *She holds a very responsible position in the firm.*

re·spon·si·bly /rɪ'spɒnsɨbli‖rɪ'spɑːn-/ *adv* in a RESPONSIBLE (3) way: *I'll trust you to behave responsibly while I'm out.* –opposite **irresponsibly**

re·spon·sive /rɪ'spɒnsɪv‖rɪ'spɑːn-/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] giving the hoped-for response or result quickly or willingly: *This car's steering isn't very responsive.* (=you have to turn it hard to get the car to change direction) | *The disease isn't proving responsive to treatment.* | *I think you'll find she's more responsive to praise than to criticism.* **2** giving answers willingly: *He wasn't very responsive, so I asked her instead.* –opposite **unresponsive** – ~**ly** *adv* – ~**ness** *n* [U]

rest[1] /rest/ *n* **1** [C;U (**from**)] (a period of) freedom from activity or from something tiring or worrying: *I'm tired; let's* **take|have a rest.** | *a* **well-earned rest** *after her exams* | *You need a good night's rest.* (=sleep) | *She needs*

rest (=peace, quiet, and little activity) *after her long illness.* | *I need a rest from all this hard work.* | (fig., *infml*) **Give it a rest,** *can't you!* (=stop being annoying, esp. by talking or making a noise) | (fig., *euph*) *She was* **laid to rest** (=buried) *in the village churchyard.* | (fig.) *I'm glad that ridiculous plan has finally been* **laid to rest.** (=got rid of) | *The letter from her daughter* **set her mind at rest.** (=freed her from anxiety) **2** [U] the condition of not moving: *The ball rolled down the hill and* **came to rest** (=stopped) *at the bottom.* | *Measure the mass of the body while it is* **at rest.** **3** [C] (*often in comb.*) a support, esp. for the stated thing: *an armrest* | *This wall will do as a rest for your camera.* —see also HEADREST, and see picture at CAR **4** [C] (in music) **a** a period of silence of a fixed length **b** any of a set of signs, such as 𝄽, that mark the length of these periods

rest[2] *v* **1** [I (**from**);T] to (allow to) take a rest: *I always rest for an hour after dinner.* | *Sit down and rest your feet.* | (fig., *euph*) *Let him* **rest** (=lie buried) **in peace.** | (fig., *euph*) *She's lying in her* **last resting-place.** (=grave) **2** [I+*adv/prep*;T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (allow to) lean or be supported: *Rest your bicycle against the wall|your head on my shoulder.* | *The ladder rested on|against the wall.* —see also REST **on/upon.** **3** [I *only in negatives*] to stop being active; be calm: *The police said they wouldn't rest until all the criminals were caught.* | *I will not rest until I know he's safe.* **4** [I+*adv/prep*] to be discontinued; not be talked about further: *We decided to let the matter|the argument rest, because it was obvious we would never agree.* **5** [I;T] *law* **a** (of a case in a law court) to have been fully explained: *My case rests.* **b** to stop explaining (one's case) to the court, because enough has been said: *I rest my case, my lord.* | *The prosecution rested (its case) after three days of testimony.* | *The defense rests, your Honor.* **6 rest assured** *usu. imperative* to be certain: *Rest assured|You can rest assured that we will do all we can.*

rest on/upon sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to lean on; be supported by: *The bridge rests on stone arches.* —see also REST[2] (2) **2** (of sight or the eyes) to be directed on; fall on: *His eyes rested on the empty seat.* **3** *fml* (esp. of a proof, argument, etc.) to depend on esp. be based on: *Your argument rests on a statement that can't be proved.* | *We've tried everything: now it all rests on him.* **4 rest on one's laurels** *derog* to be satisfied with what one has done already, and therefore not do any more

rest with sbdy. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] *fml* to be the responsibility of: *The decision rests with you.* | *The fate of these prisoners rests with the judge.*

rest[3] *n* [*the*+S+*sing./pl. v*] **1** what is left; the ones that still remain: *We'll eat some of the butter and keep the rest (of it) for breakfast.* | *Only ten students attended the class because all the rest (of them) were off sick.* | *John's Scottish and the rest of us are Welsh.* **2 for the rest** apart from what has already been mentioned; as for everything else

Re·start /ˈriːstɑːt‖-ɑːrt/ the name of a British government SCHEME for people who have been unemployed for six months or more. It is intended to help them find work by providing advice, information, and TRAINING.

re·state /ˌriːˈsteɪt/ *v* [T] to state again or in a different way: *Do I have to restate my objections to this ridiculous plan?* | *Seeing his look of confusion, she tried to restate her opinion more clearly.* —~**ment** *n* [C;U]

res·tau·rant /ˈrestərɒnt‖-rənt, -rɑːnt/ *n* a place where meals are prepared, sold, and eaten

restaurant car /ˈ··· ·/ *n* a DINING CAR

res·tau·ra·teur /ˌrestərəˈtɜːr/ also **rest·au·ran·teur** /ˌrestərɒnˈtɜːr‖-rɑːn-/ *esp. AmE*— *n* the owner of a restaurant, esp. one who runs it himself or herself

rest cure /ˈ· ·/ *n* a course of treatment, often for people with illnesses of the mind, consisting of rest from one's usual activities: *Make an effort; this is a battle training course, not a rest cure!*

rest·ful /ˈrestfəl/ *adj* peaceful and quiet; giving one a feeling of rest: *Pale greens and yellows make a restful colour scheme for a room.* | *a restful holiday|atmosphere* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

rest home /ˈ· ·/ *n* an establishment where old or ill people are looked after —see RESIDENTIAL CARE (CULTURAL NOTE)

res·ti·tu·tion /ˌrestɪˈtjuːʃən‖-ˈtuːʃən/ *n* [U (**to**)] *fml* the act of returning something lost or stolen to its owner, or of paying for damage: *The court ordered him to make full restitution of the money to the people he had stolen it from.*

res·tive /ˈrestɪv/ *adj* unwilling to keep still or be controlled; nervous: *The horses are restive tonight; there must be wolves about.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

rest·less /ˈrestləs/ *adj* **1** giving no rest: *I spent a very restless night.* (=could not sleep) **2** unwilling or unable to stay still, esp. because of anxiety or lack of interest: *After listening to him for three hours the audience became restless.* | *He's been feeling very restless lately and is applying for jobs abroad.* | *the restless sea* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

re·stock /ˌriːˈstɒk‖ˌriːˈstɑːk/ *v* [I;T (**with**)] to get a new supply of things (for): *to restock the shelves in a supermarket* | *The lake has been restocked with fish.*

res·to·ra·tion /ˌrestəˈreɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the act of restoring or condition of being restored: *The army's task was the restoration of public order.* | *We gave money to the church restoration fund.* | *This restoration of a prehistoric village shows what it must have looked like.*

Restoration [*the*] (the period in Britain following) the return of Charles II as king in 1660. The period was characterized by advances in trade, opposition to the ROMAN CATHOLIC religion, the establishment of the WHIG and TORY political parties, and new developments in poetry and the theatre.

Restoration com·e·dy /ˌ···· ˈ···/ *n* a type of play that was popular in England at the time of the Restoration, characterized by its SATIRICAL humour and jokes about society, e.g. *She Stoops to Conquer* written by Oliver Goldsmith

re·sto·ra·tive /rɪˈstɔːrətɪv/ *n, adj fml or old-fash* (a food, medicine, etc.) that brings back health and strength

re·store /rɪˈstɔːr/ *v* [T] **1** to bring back into use or existence; introduce again: *The army was called in to restore law and order.* | *This proposal would restore the tax advantages that small business used to enjoy.* **2** [(**to**)] to put back into a former position: *The new manager's job is to restore the company to profitability.* **3** [(**to**) *usu. pass.*] to bring back to a good or desirable state, esp. of health: *I feel quite restored (to health) after my holiday.* **4** to put (esp. an old building, piece of furniture, or work of art) back into its original state: *The old painting was damaged in the flood and had to be painstakingly restored.* **5** [(**to**)] *rather fml* to give back: *The stolen property must be restored to its owner.* —**-storer** *n* [C;U]: *He's a picture restorer.* | *a bottle of hair restorer* (=for people whose hair is falling out)

re·strain /rɪˈstreɪn/ *v* [T (**from**)] to control or prevent from doing something, esp. by use of force: *If you can't restrain your dog (from biting people) you must lock it up.* | *I had to restrain myself from telling him what I thought of him.*

re·strained /rɪˈstreɪnd/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) calm and controlled; not showing strong feelings: *a restrained and cool-headed response to their unfair criticisms* —*opposite* **unrestrained** **2** not bright or highly decorated: *a room painted in restrained colours*

re·straint /rɪˈstreɪnt/ *n* **1** [U] *often apprec* the quality of being restrained or restraining oneself: *I think you showed great restraint in not hitting him after what he said.* | *a policy of wage restraint* (=holding back from giving or asking for higher wages) **2** [C (**on**) *usu. pl.*] something that restrains; restriction: *government restraints imposed on foreign trade* | *constitutional restraints on the power of the president* | *She was put in restraints after her violent attack.* **3** [U] the condition of having no freedom of action or movement: *He went mad and had to be* **kept under restraint.** **4** [C] a SEAT BELT in a car: *Children from four to 14 years old travelling in the back of a car must use a restraint specifically designed for them or an adult safety belt.*

re·strict /rɪˈstrɪkt/ *v* [T (**to**)] to keep within limits of size or number or to a certain limit: *I restrict myself to (smoking) two cigarettes a day.* | *laws to restrict the sale of alcohol* | *We had to restrict the number of students on this course.* —compare CONSTRICT

re·strict·ed /rɪˈstrɪktɪd/ *adj* **1** [(**to**)] controlled or limited in some way, esp. by law: *The sale of alcohol is restricted in Britain.* | *Membership of the club is restricted to people under 30.* (=only people under 30 can join) **2** for a particular purpose, or for the use of a particular group only: *a restricted area, where only the army are allowed to go* | *This information is restricted.* (=secret) **3** *sometimes*

derog limited in space; narrow and shut in: *I need a bigger kitchen — it's hard to work in such a restricted space.* | (fig.) *He leads a very restricted life.*

re·stric·tion /rɪ'strɪkʃən/ *n* [C;U (**on**)] the act of restricting, or something that restricts: *The law imposes restrictions on the export of high-technology goods.* | *speed/currency restrictions*

re·stric·tive /rɪ'strɪktɪv/ *adj* **1** tending to restrict; limiting: *He finds life in a small town too restrictive.* | *an attempt to get rid of* **restrictive practices** (=rules or ways of working that limit the freedom of workers or employers) **2** *tech* (of a CLAUSE) saying which person or thing is meant, rather than giving additional information: *In "the man who came to dinner" the words "who came to dinner" are a restrictive clause, because they tell us which man is meant.* —compare NONRESTRICTIVE — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

restrictive prac·tice /ˌ·· '··/ *n* **1** a trading agreement which is against the public interest **2** a limitation on what work a union will allow workers from other unions to do

rest room /'· ·/ *n AmE euph* a public TOILET in a hotel, restaurant, etc. —see TOILET (USAGE)

rest stop /'· ·/ *n* a place near an American road or HIGHWAY where there are TOILETS and where people can eat in the open air

re·struc·ture /ˌriː'strʌktʃəʳ/ *v* [T] to arrange (a system or organization) in a new way; give a new structure to: *the restructuring of local government*

re·sult[1] /rɪ'zʌlt/ *v* [I (**from**)] to happen as an effect or result; be the CONSEQUENCE (of): *If these two substances are combined, an enormous explosion will result.* | *His illness resulted from* (=was caused by) *eating contaminated food.*

result in sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to have as a result; cause: *The accident resulted in the death of two passengers.* [+*obj*+*v-ing*] *The accident resulted in two passengers dying.*

result[2] *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] something that happens because of an action or event: *His illness is a/the result of eating contaminated food.* | *She was late* **as a result of** (=because of) *the snow.* | *These problems are the result of years of bad management.* | *(fml) I was away on business, with the result that* (=so that) *I missed the vital meeting.* | *The* **net result** (=the result at the end) *of all our discussions was that she agreed to take the job.* **2** [C;U] (a) noticeable good effect: *Your hard work is beginning to show results.* **3** [C (**of**)] (a report of) the success or failure of a person, team, organization, etc. in an examination, sports match, etc.: *The football results are broadcast on the radio.* | *The result (of the match) was 1–0 to England.* | *When will you get your exam results?* | *The company's annual results show a profit of over $5 million.* **4** [C] the answer to a sum: *Let's both add it up and see if we get the same result.* **5** [C] *BrE infml* (esp. in football) a win: *If we don't get a result tonight we'll be put down into a lower division.*

re·sul·tant /rɪ'zʌltənt/ *adj* [A] *fml* happening as an effect; resulting: *He was arrested for drunkenness and the resultant publicity ruined his career.*

re·sume /rɪ'zjuːm‖rɪ'zuːm/ *v* **1** [I;T] *rather fml* to begin again after a pause: *Let us resume where we left off.* | *We resumed our journey/our discussions after a short rest.* [+*v-ing*] *We'll stop now and resume working at two o'clock.* **2** [T] *fml* to take again: *Kindly resume your seats, ladies and gentlemen.*

ré·su·mé /'rezjʊmeɪ, 'reɪ-‖ˌrezʊ'meɪ/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a shortened form of a speech, book, etc.; SUMMARY **2** *AmE for* CURRICULUM VITAE

re·sump·tion /rɪ'zʌmpʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* the act of resuming: *the resumption of business after a holiday*

re·sur·face /ˌriː'sɜːfɪs‖-ɜːr-/ *v* **1** [T] to put a new surface on (a road) **2** [I] to come back to the surface: *The children watched as the submarine resurfaced.* | (fig.) *Old rivalries are beginning to resurface.*

re·sur·gence /rɪ'sɜːdʒəns‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [S;U] the return of ideas, beliefs, etc. to a state of being active and noticeable: *There has been a resurgence of interest in her work after a period of neglect.* | *a resurgence of terrorist activity* —**gent** *adj*: *resurgent interest*

res·ur·rect /ˌrezə'rekt/ *v* [T] **1** *often derog* to bring back into use, existence, or fashion; REVIVE: *The government resurrected an ancient law in order to punish the ringleaders.* | *It's a mistake to resurrect old quarrels.* **2** *rare* to bring back to life

res·ur·rec·tion /ˌrezə'rekʃən/ *n* **1** [U] *fml* the act of resurrecting something; renewal: *The plan has now been dropped, with little hope of resurrection.* **2 I am the resurrection and the life** *phrase from the Bible* one of the most important phrases said by Jesus, a promise that people who believe in him will live forever

Resurrection [*the*] **1** the return of Christ to life after his death as described in the Bible, which is remembered with ceremonies at Easter, and is one of the main beliefs on which Christianity is based **2** the return of all dead people to life at the end of the world. Christians believe that, as a result of Christ's resurrection, the souls of people who believe in him will be united with their bodies on JUDGMENT DAY, in the form that will last for ever.

re·sus·ci·tate /rɪ'sʌsɪteɪt/ *v* [T] to bring (a person or animal that is almost dead) back to life: *They tried to resuscitate the drowned man.* —**-tation** /rɪˌsʌsɪ'teɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *Despite our attempts at resuscitation, she died.*

re·tail[1] /'riːteɪl/ *n* [U] the sale of goods in shops to customers, for their own use and not for selling to anyone else: *the retail of goods* | *retail prices* | *a retail outlet* (=a shop) — compare WHOLESALE[1]

retail[2] *adv* by retail; from a retailer: *I bought it retail.*

re·tail[3] /rɪ'teɪl/ *v* **1** [I+**at/for**;T] *tech* to sell or be sold by retail: *In this shop they retail tobacco and sweets.* | *These socks retail at £5 a pair.* **2** [T] *fml* to tell (esp. unpleasant facts about a person) to other people: *Who is responsible for retailing these rumours about him?*

retail bank /'·· ˌ·/ *n BrE* a bank which has branches in many towns and provides services to ordinary people and small companies

re·tail·er /'riːteɪləʳ/ *n* someone who sells things by retail; shopkeeper

retail price in·dex /ˌ·· '· ˌ··/ also **RPI**— [*the*] an official system (in Britain) which is a monthly measure of the prices of goods and services bought by an average person, to show changes in the cost of living —see also CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

retail trade /'·· ˌ·/ *n* **1** [U] the business of selling goods to the public in shops **2** [C] a particular kind of business that sells goods to the public in shops

re·tain /rɪ'teɪn/ *v* [T] *rather fml* **1** to keep possession of; avoid losing: *She tried to retain her self-control/her balance.* | *This village still retains its old-world character.* | *His business has been taken over by a big corporation, but he still retains some control over it.* | *Lead retains heat well.* | *a heavy soil that retains water* —see also RETENTION **2** to hold in place: *The dam retains the waters of the lake.* | *A* **retaining wall** *holds the earth in place.* **3** to employ (esp. a lawyer or adviser) to act for one, by paying in advance

re·tain·er /rɪ'teɪnəʳ/ *n* **1** a sum of money paid to someone, esp. a lawyer, for their advice and help **2** *old-fash* a servant, esp. one who has always worked for a particular person or family: *an old and trusted retainer*

re·take[1] /ˌriː'teɪk/ *v* **-took** /'tʊk/, **-taken** /'teɪkən/ [T] **1** to regain possession of (a place lost in war): *We retook the city after severe fighting.* **2** to record or film again

re·take[2] /'riːteɪk/ *n* an act of filming or recording something again: *I forgot my lines, so they had to do a retake.*

re·tal·i·ate /rɪ'tælieɪt/ *v* [I (**against**)] to do something bad to someone who has done something bad to you: *One of their players kicked me, so I retaliated and kicked him back.* | *When they refused to allow our exports into their country, we retaliated by putting a tax on goods from their country.* —**-ation** /rɪˌtæli'eɪʃən/ *n* [U]: *The government decided against military retaliation for the terrorist attack.* | *a tax imposed* **in retaliation for** *their import restrictions*

re·tal·i·a·to·ry /rɪ'tæliətəri‖-tɔːri/ *adj fml* done in retaliation: *a retaliatory kick* | *a retaliatory bombing raid*

re·tard[1] /rɪ'tɑːd‖-ɑːrd/ *v* [T] *esp. fml or tech* to delay, esp. in development, cause to happen later than usual or expected: *Cold weather retards the growth of the crops.* — **~ation** /ˌriːtɑː'deɪʃən‖-ɑːr-/ *n* [U]

re·tard[2] /'riːtɑːd‖-ɑːrd/ *n AmE infml derog* a person with a mental disability; an offensive word used esp. by children

re·tard·ed /rɪ'tɑːdɨd‖-ɑːr-/ *adj* (esp. of a child) slower in development or less able than others: *Lucy is very retarded and can't read yet.* | *mentally retarded*

retch /retʃ/ *v* [I] to try to VOMIT (=be sick) esp. without success

retd *written abbrev. for:* RETIRED (1): *Captain Percy Truscott RN (retd)*

re·tell /ˌriː'tel/ *v* **-told** /'təʊld/ [T] to tell (a story) again in a new way or different language: *German fairy stories retold in English*

re·ten·tion /rɪ'tenʃən/ *n* [U] *fml* the state or action of retaining (RETAIN): *Retention of urine is the inability to pass urine from the body.* | *The swelling is due to water retention.* | *They advocate the retention of our nuclear power plants.* (=that they should be kept)

re·ten·tive /rɪ'tentɪv/ *adj* able to RETAIN things, esp. facts in the mind: *She has a very retentive memory.* —**~ly** *adv* —**~ness** *n* [U]

re·think[1] /ˌriː'θɪŋk/ *v* **-thought** /'θɔːt/ [I;T] to think (about) again; reconsider (an idea, plan, etc.), esp. with the likelihood of changing it: *We'd better rethink our whole strategy.* | *If that's what he wants, he'll have to rethink.*

re·think[2] /'riːθɪŋk/ *n* [S] an act of rethinking: *It's clearly not going to work in the way we'd originally intended; we'll have to have a rethink.*

ret·i·cent /'retɨsənt/ *adj* (of a person or their behaviour) unwilling to speak; not expressing as much as is known or felt: *He was reticent about the reasons for the quarrel.* —**~ly** *adv* —**-cence** *n* [U]

re·tic·u·la·ted /rɪ'tɪkjʊleɪtɨd/ also **re·tic·u·late** /-kjʊlɨt/— *adj tech* forming or covered with a netlike pattern of squares and lines: *a reticulated leaf*

re·tic·u·la·tion /rɪˌtɪkjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* [C *often pl.*;U] *tech* (a) netlike pattern: *a snake covered with beautiful orange and black reticulations*

ret·i·cule /'retɪkjuːl/ *n old use or humor* a small handbag

ret·i·na /'retɨnə/ *n* **-nas** *or* **-nae** /niː/ an area at the back of the eye that receives light and sends an image of what is seen through nerves to the brain —see picture at EYE

ret·i·nue /'retɪnjuː‖-nuː/ *n* [C+*sing./pl. v*] a group of helpers and followers travelling with an important person: *Two whole floors of the hotel were booked for the president's retinue.*

re·tire /rɪ'taɪəʳ/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) stop working at one's job, profession, etc., usu. because of age: *My father retired (from his job in the Civil Service) at the age of 60.* | *They retired her on full pay.*

►CULTURAL NOTE In Britain the age at which people retire depends on the company they work for and the type of work they do, but on average women retire at 60 and men retire at 65 as this is when they are allowed to receive the state retirement PENSION. In the US workers can get their full SOCIAL SECURITY payments at age 65, or they can get a part of them if they wish to retire earlier. —compare RESIGN (1)◄

2 [I (**from, to**)] *fml* to go away to a quiet or less central place: *Members of the jury, you must now retire to consider your verdict.* **3** [I] *fml or humor* to go to bed —compare RISE[1] (5) **4** [I] (esp. of an army) to move back intentionally, without being forced to: *Our armies have retired to regroup for a fresh attack.* —compare RETREAT[2] **5 light the blue touchpaper and retire immediately** a phrase used in the directions printed on FIREWORKS, meaning that one should light the firework and then move away immediately

re·tired /rɪ'taɪəd‖-'taɪərd/ *adj* **1** [*no comp.*] (of a person) having stopped working, usu. because of age: *My father is retired|is a retired doctor.* **2** *old-fash fml* (of a place) far from crowds and large towns

re·tire·ment /rɪ'taɪəmənt‖-'taɪər-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a case of) retiring (RETIRE (1)): *His employers gave him a gold watch on his retirement.* | *We've had two retirements in our office this year.* | *a retirement present* —see also EARLY RETIREMENT

►CULTURAL NOTE In the past, workers who had worked for a company for a long time were given a gold watch by the company when they retired. People still mention this, although it does not often happen now.◄

2 [S;U] the period after one has retired: *What will you do to pass your time during your retirement?* | *a long and happy retirement* | *a retirement pension*

retirement pen·sion /·'·· ˌ··/ *n* OLD AGE PENSION

retirement plan /·'·· ˌ·/ *n AmE for* PENSION PLAN

re·tir·ing /rɪ'taɪərɪŋ/ *adj* (typical of a person) who generally avoids the company of others; SHY and RESERVED: *Jane is a shy retiring girl|has a retiring nature, and hates parties.*

re·tort[1] /rɪ'tɔːt‖-ɔːrt/ *v* [T] to make a RETORT[2]: *"Of course not," she retorted.* [+(*that*)] *He retorted that it was all my fault.* —see ANSWER (USAGE)

retort[2] *n* a quick, angry, rude, or amusing answer

retort[3] *n* a bottle with a long narrow bent neck, used for heating chemicals

re·touch /ˌriː'tʌtʃ/ *v* [T] to improve (a picture or photograph) by adding small strokes with a brush or pencil

re·trace /rɪ'treɪs, riː-/ *v* [T] to go back over (esp. a journey or a course of events): *The police have succeeded in retracing his movements on the night of the crime.* | *She* **retraced her steps** (=went back exactly the way she had come) *to try to find her lost ring.*

re·tract /rɪ'trækt/ *v* [I;T] *fml* **1** to state, esp. officially, that (a statement or offer that one has made) is not true or can no longer be accepted; WITHDRAW: *At the trial, the prisoner retracted his confession.* **2** to (cause to) draw back or in: *The aircraft's undercarriage retracted as it climbed into the air.* | *A cat can retract its claws, but a dog can't.* —**~able** *adj* : *an aircraft with a retractable undercarriage* —**~ion** /'trækʃən/ *n* [C;U] : *The newspaper was forced to publish a retraction of all the allegations they had made against her.*

re·trac·tile /rɪ'træktaɪl‖-tl/ *adj tech* (esp. of a CLAW) that can be retracted (RETRACT (2))

re·train /ˌriː'treɪn/ *v* [I;T] to learn, or teach, the skills of a different job, esp. because one is (about to become) unemployed —**retraining** *n* [U]

re·tread[1] /ˌriː'tred/ also **remould** *BrE* ‖ **recap** *AmE*— *v* [T] to renew the rubber covering on the bare surface of (a worn tyre)

re·tread[2] /'riːtred/ *n* **1** also **remould** *BrE* ‖ **recap** *AmE*— a retreaded tyre **2** *AmE* RETARD[2] **3** *AmE* a person, esp. an older one, who has been trained to do a kind of work which is different from what they did before

re·treat[1] /rɪ'triːt/ *n* **1** [C;U (**from, to**)] (an act of) retreating: *Napoleon's retreat from Moscow* | *The army fell back* **in full retreat**. | (fig.) *The latest concessions mark a significant retreat from the President's hard-line policy.* —compare ADVANCE[2] (1) **2** [*the*+S] a military signal for retreating: *The general ordered the bugler to* **sound the retreat**. **3** [C] a place into which one can go for peace and safety: *He has a little retreat in the mountains.* **4** [C;U] (the practice of spending) a period of prayer, thought, and religious study, with a group: *They spent a week in retreat|on a retreat.* —see also **beat a retreat** (BEAT[1] (8))

retreat[2] *v* [I (**from, to**)] to move back or leave a centre of fighting or other activity, esp. when forced to do so: *The defeated army had to retreat hastily (from the field of battle to the coast).* | *firefighters retreating from an uncontrollable forest fire* | (fig.) *The opposition groups forced the government to retreat on their proposed pay legislation.* —compare ADVANCE[1] (1), RETIRE (4)

re·trench /rɪ'trentʃ/ *v* [I] *fml* (of a government, business, etc.) to arrange to spend less; cut costs —**~ment** [C;U] : *The worsening economic situation has forced the government into a policy of retrenchment.*

re·tri·al /'riːtraɪəl/ *n* an act of trying a law case again; new trial: *Some members of the jury had been bribed, so the judge ordered a retrial.*

ret·ri·bu·tion /ˌretrɨ'bjuːʃən/ *n* [S;U (**for**)] *fml* (a) severe deserved punishment: *The public are demanding swift and effective retribution for this act of terrorism.*

re·trib·u·tive /rɪ'trɪbjʊtɪv/ *adj fml* done as a deserved punishment: *retributive measures*

re·triev·al /rɪ'triːvəl/ *n* [U] *fml* the act or process of retrieving: *The court ordered the retrieval of the confiscated funds.* | *a computerized* **retrieval system** *that will enable you to find the information you want within a few*

seconds. | *I'm afraid the situation is* **beyond/past retrieval**. (=cannot now be put right)

re·trieve /rɪ'tri:v/ *v* **1** [T (**from**)] *usu. fml or tech* to find and bring back; regain: *I went and retrieved the bag I had left on the train.* | *This computer can retrieve stored information in a matter of seconds.* | *Wreckage from the crashed plane was retrieved from the ocean.* **2** [T] to put right; make up for (a mistake, loss, defeat, etc.): *She tried to retrieve the situation by making profuse apologies.* **3** [I;T] (of a dog) to bring back (shot birds) —**retrievable** *adj*

re·triev·er /rɪ'tri:vəʳ/ *n* a type of middle-sized hunting dog trained to bring back shot birds

retro- see WORD FORMATION

ret·ro·ac·tive /ˌretrəʊ'æktɪv◂/ also **retrospective**— *adj fml* (esp. of a law) having effect on the past as well as on the future: *a retroactive pay increase* — ~**ly** *adv*

ret·ro·flex /'retrəfleks/ also **ret·ro·flexed** /-flekst/— *adj* **1** *tech* (of a speech sound) made with the TIP (=point) of the tongue curled upwards and backwards **2** *fml* turned or bent sharply backwards

ret·ro·grade /'retrəgreɪd/ *adj fml derog* seeming to show a return to an earlier and worse state: *Selling off all our nationalized companies to private ownership is a very* **retrograde step**.

ret·ro·gress /ˌretrə'gres/ *v* [I (**to**)] *fml or tech* to go back to an earlier and worse state — ~**ion** /'greʃən/ *n* [U]

ret·ro·gres·sive /ˌretrə'gresɪv◂/ *adj fml derog* retrograde: *retrogressive changes to the tax laws* — ~**ly** *adv*

ret·ro·rock·et /'retrəʊ ˌrɒkɨt‖-ˌrɑ:-/ *n* a ROCKET that is used for slowing down or changing the direction of an aircraft or spacecraft by firing forwards

ret·ro·spect /'retrəspekt/ *n* **in retrospect** thinking back to the past from the present: *My school life seems happier in retrospect than it seemed at the time.* | *In retrospect, it is now clear that this battle was a turning point in the war.*

ret·ro·spec·tion /ˌretrə'spekʃən/ *n* [U] thought about the past: *the pleasures of retrospection*

retro·spec·tive[1] /ˌretrə'spektɪv◂/ *adj* **1** concerned with or thinking about the past: *in a retrospective mood* **2** (esp. of a law) RETROACTIVE — ~**ly** *adv*

retrospective[2] also **retrospective ex·hi·bi·tion** /ˌ···· ··'··/— *n* a show of the work of a painter, SCULPTOR, etc. from his or her earliest years up to the present time

re·trous·sé /rə'tru:seɪ‖rəˌtru:'seɪ/ *adj Fr, often apprec* (of a nose) turned up at the lower end

ret·si·na /ret'si:nə/ *n* [U] a Greek wine that tastes of the RESIN (=juice) of certain trees

re·turn[1] /rɪ'tɜ:n‖-ɜ:rn/ *v* **1** [I (**from, to**)] to come or go back to a former place, condition, or activity: *When are you returning home/returning to London?* | *What time does your wife return from work?* | *The dispute between transport workers and management has been settled and services will return to normal tomorrow.* | *He gave up drinking for a while, but soon returned to his old ways.* | *Let's return to the main point of the discussion.* —see also RETURNER **2** [T (**to**)] to give, put, or send back: *I'm going to the library to return my books.* | *Fortunately the hostages were returned unharmed.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Don't forget to return me my keys!* | *We returned the empty bottles to the shop.* **3** [T] to give or do in exchange; REPAY: *She wondered whether he would* **return the/her visit**. (=go to see her after she had been to see him) | *He told her she was very clever and she* **returned the compliment.** (=said something nice about him in return) **4** [T (**to**)] to elect to a political position: *At the general election she was returned (to Parliament) with an increased majority.* **5** [T] (of a JURY) to give (a VERDICT): *They returned a verdict of "Not Guilty".* **6** [T] to produce as a profit; YIELD: *These shares return a good rate of interest.* **7** [T] *fml* to give an official account of, esp. in answer to a demand: *He returned his earnings as £9000 on the tax declaration.* **8 return to work** (of a woman) to go back to work after having children and looking after them for a few years: *She's thinking of returning to work.*

return[2] *n* **1** [C;U (**from, to**)] the act or an example of returning (RETURN[1] (1)): *We look forward to your return (from China).* | **On his return** (=when he came back) *he found her asleep.* | *Keep some food to eat on the return journey.* | *This cold weather has brought a return of the flu epidemic.* | *The army has promised a return to civilian rule within two years.* **2** [U] the act of giving, putting, or sending something back: *The library is demanding the return of the books.* | *The spectators cheered the tennis champion's return of service.* | *After the game the players arranged a return match.* (=to play each other again) **3** also **returns** *pl.*— [C] an amount of money produced as a profit: *These shares* **have brought in** *good returns.* | *We guarantee a high return on your investment.* **4** [C] an official account, esp. of money earned or spent: *Make sure you put in all your earnings on your tax return.* **5** [C] *BrE* a RETURN[3] ticket **6 by return (of post)** *esp. BrE* by the next post: *Please let us know your answer by return.* **7 in return (for)** in exchange or as payment (for): *He agreed to give evidence against the terrorists in return for a guarantee of protection.* | *They are letting us use their computer, and in return we are giving them the results of our research.* **8 many happy returns (of the day)** (used as a birthday greeting)

return[3] *BrE*‖**round-trip** *AmE*— *adj* (of a ticket or its cost) for a trip from one place to another and back again: *The price is £1 single and £1.80 return.* —compare SINGLE[1] (6); see also DAY RETURN

re·tur·na·ble /rɪ'tɜ:nəbəl‖-ɜ:r-/ *adj* **1** that can be given or sent back, often to be used again: *returnable bottles* — opposite **nonreturnable** **2** *fml* that must be given or sent back: *The writ is returnable immediately.*

re·turn·er /rɪ'tɜ:nəʳ‖-ɜ:r-/ *n BrE* a person who goes back to work after a long time away, esp. a woman who returns to a job after spending time at home with her children: *government plans to help returners*

returning of·fi·cer /·'·· ˌ···/ *n* (in Britain) the official in each town or area who arranges an election to Parliament and gives out the result

Reu·ben sand·wich /'ru:bɨn ˌsænwɪdʒ‖-ˌsændwɪtʃ, -ˌsænwɪtʃ/ *n* (in the US) a popular sandwich made of salt beef, SWISS CHEESE, and SAUERKRAUT usu. on RYE bread

re·u·ni·fy /ri:'ju:nɨfaɪ/ *v* [T] to join the parts of (e.g. a divided country) again —compare REUNITE —**reunification** /ri:ˌju:nɨfɨ'keɪʃən/ *n* [U] : *the reunification of Germany*

re·u·nion /ri:'ju:njən/ *n* **1** [C] a meeting of friends or fellow-workers after a separation: *We hold an annual reunion of former students of the college.* **2** [U] the state of being brought together again

re·u·nite /ˌri:ju:'naɪt/ *v* [I;T (**with**)] to (cause to) come or join together again: *Do you think the two parts of Ireland will ever reunite?* | *After the hijacking, the hostages were reunited with their families.*

re·up·hol·ster /ˌri:ʌp'həʊlstəʳ/ *v* [T] to replace the coverings and fillings of (a seat): *I'd like to have that chair reupholstered.*

re·use /ˌri:'ju:z/ *v* [T] **1** to use again **2** to RECYCLE — **reusable** *adj*

Reu·ters /'rɔɪtəz‖-ərz/ a British company which employs journalists in many different countries to send news from all over the world to sell to newspapers, etc.

rev[1] /rev/ *n infml for* REVOLUTION (4): *The engine is on low revs.* (=is turning slowly)

rev[2] *v* **-vv-** *infml* **1** [T (UP)] to increase the speed of (an engine): *Don't rev (up) your engine so loudly — you'll wake the baby.* | (fig.) *We need to rev up production if we're going to reach our target for this year.* **2** [I (UP)] (of an engine) to increase speed: *We could hear a car revving (up) in the driveway.*

Rev also **Revd** *BrE*‖**Rev.** *AmE written abbrev for:* REVEREND: *the Rev D. Macleod*

re·val·ue /ri:'vælju:/ *v* [T] **1** to find out or state the latest or real value of; make a new VALUATION of: *We're having all the contents of our house revalued for insurance purposes.* **2** to increase the exchange value of (a country's money): *The dollar is being revalued.* —compare DEVALUE (1) —**-uation** /ri:ˌvælju'eɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

re·vamp /ri:'væmp/ *v* [T] *infml* to give a new (and better) form or structure to (something old): *a radical plan to revamp the whole system of secondary education*

re·veal /rɪ'vi:l/ *v* [T] **1** to show or allow (something previously hidden) to be seen: *The curtains opened, to reveal a darkened stage.* **2** to make known (something previously secret or unknown): *Do you promise not to reveal my secret?* | *The investigation has revealed some serious*

faults in the system. [+*that*] *I can now reveal that the new director is to be James Johnson.*

re·veal·ing /rɪ'viːlɪŋ/ *adj* **1** allowing parts to be seen which are usually kept covered: *a very revealing dress* **2** giving some esp. interesting or unexpected information which had been unknown: *She made some very revealing comments when I had a private chat with her.*

re·veil·le /rɪ'vælɪ‖'revəli/ *n* [(*the*) S] music played as a signal to waken soldiers in the morning: *When (the) reveille sounds/is sounded, we all leap out of bed.*

rev·el /'revəl/ *v* **-ll-** *BrE*‖**-l-** *AmE* [I] *old use or humor* to pass the time in dancing, eating, drinking, etc. esp. wildly at a party or celebration: *They were revelling all night.* —**~ler** *BrE*‖**~er** *AmE n* : *We were kept awake by crowds of noisy revellers.*

revel in sthg. *phr v* [T] to enjoy greatly; get pleasure from (esp. something unpleasant or something that most other people do not enjoy): *to revel in scandal* | *She revels in all the attention she gets from the media.* [+*v-ing*] *He seems to revel in inflicting pain.*

rev·e·la·tion /ˌrevə'leɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the making known of something secret: *The revelation of his scandalous past led to his resignation.* **2** [C] an often surprising fact that is made known, esp. one that explains or makes something clear: *Have you read the ex-minister's amazing revelations in the newspaper?* [+*that*] *The revelation that he was her father astonished her.* **3** [C;U] (an example of) the making known of the truth by God

Rev·e·la·tions /ˌrevə'leɪʃənz/ the final book of the New Testament in the Bible in which the story of the end of the world is told

rev·el·ry /'revəlri/ also **revelries** *pl.*— *n* [U] wild noisy dancing, eating, drinking, etc.; revelling

re·venge[1] /rɪ'vendʒ/ *n* [U (**for, on**)] punishment given to someone in return for harm done to oneself: *We bombed their cities* **in revenge** *for their attacks on ours.* | *We* **took revenge** *on them by bombing their cities.* | *a revenge attack* | *After I'd beaten him at chess I gave him a chance to get his revenge.* (=by beating me) —**~ful** *adj*

revenge[2] *v* [T] **1** to do something in revenge for (harm done to someone, esp. to oneself): *to revenge a defeat/an injustice* **2 revenge oneself on** to take revenge on (a person or group)

rev·e·nue /'revɨnjuː‖-nuː/ also **revenues** *pl.*— *n* [U] income, esp. that which the government receives as tax: *The government was short of money because of falling oil revenues.* —see also INLAND REVENUE, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

re·ver·be·rate /rɪ'vɜːbəreɪt‖-ɜːr-/ *v* [I] (of sound) to be thrown back again and again: ECHO[2] repeatedly: *The thunder reverberated across the valley.* | (fig.) *The shocking news reverberated round the world.* —compare RESOUND —**-rant** *adj*

re·ver·be·ra·tion /rɪˌvɜːbə'reɪʃən‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [C *usu. pl.*;U] (a) sound heard again and again: *The reverberation(s) of the shot died away slowly.*

re·vere /rɪ'vɪəʳ/ *v* [T] *fml* to give great respect and admiration to; regard with reverence: *to revere the memory of a great leader* | *a much revered institution*

Revere, Paul (1735–1818) an American HERO who is known for his ride to warn the people of Massachusetts that British soldiers were coming, during the AMERICAN REVOLUTION. This is the subject of a poem by Longfellow.

rev·e·rence[1] /'revərəns/ *n* **1** [U (**for**)] *fml* great respect and admiration mixed with love: *The old queen was held in great reverence.* **2** [C] *old use, humor, or IrE* (used when speaking to or of a priest): *Will you take a glass of sherry,* **your reverence**?

reverence[2] *v* [T] *fml rare* to revere

rev·e·rend /'revərənd/ *adj* [A] *fml* being a priest: *A reverend gentleman is here to see you, sir!*

Reverend *n* (a title of respect for) a Christian priest: *the Reverend Donald Jones* | *When will the new church be finished, Reverend?*

Reverend Moth·er /ˌ··· '··/ *n* (a title of respect for) the MOTHER SUPERIOR of a CONVENT

rev·e·rent /'revərənt/ *adj* showing a feeling of reverence: *They all maintained a reverent silence.* —opposite **irreverent** —**~ly** *adv*

rev·e·ren·tial /ˌrevə'renʃəl◂/ *adj fml* respectful; expressing reverence: *a reverential bow of the head* —**~ly** *adv*

rev·e·rie /'revəri/ *n* [C;U] *fml* (a state of) pleasant thoughts and dreams while awake; DAYDREAM: *She fell into a reverie about the past.* | *He was sunk in reverie and did not hear me.*

re·vers /rɪ'vɪəʳ/ *n* **-vers** /'vɪəz‖'vɪərz/ [*usu. pl.*] a part of a coat or dress turned back at the neck to show the inside, which may be a different colour from the rest —compare LAPEL

re·vers·al /rɪ'vɜːsəl‖-ɜːr-/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a case of) being reversed: *In a complete reversal of his previous decision, he gave permission for the project to go ahead.* **2** [C] a defeat or piece of bad luck: *They were finally successful in spite of a number of reversals.* | *We experienced a* **reversal of fortune** *in the second half of the game.*

re·verse[1] /rɪ'vɜːs‖-ɜːrs/ *adj* [A] opposite to the usual or former, esp. in position or direction: *Please read the names on this list* **in reverse order**. (=from the end to the beginning) | *the reverse side* (=back) *of the cloth*

reverse[2] *v* **1** [I;T] to go or cause (a vehicle) to go backwards: *The car reversed through the gate.* | *I reversed (the car) through the gate.* **2** [T] to change round (usual order or positions): *They reversed the normal order of the ceremony and had the prayers at the beginning.* **3** [T] to change (e.g. a decision or judgment) to the opposite: *The appeal court reversed the original verdict and set the prisoner free.* | *The company's profits have been steadily falling, and his job is to reverse this trend.* **4** [T] to turn (something) over, so as to show the back: *She reversed the sheet of paper.* **5 reverse the charges** *BrE*‖also **call collect** *AmE*— to make a telephone call to be paid for by the person receiving it —**-versible** *adj* : *This coat is reversible; you can wear it inside out.* —**-versibility** /rɪˌvɜːsə'bɪlətiˌrɪˌvɜːr-/ *n* [U]

reverse[3] *n* **1** [*the* (**of**)] the opposite; the other way round: *He did the reverse of what we expected: instead of being angry, he bought us a drink.* | *"Are you pleased?" "***Quite the reverse,** *I'm very disappointed."* **2** [U] also **reverse gear** /·ˌ· '·/— the position of the controls that causes backward movement, esp. in a car: *Put the car into reverse.* **3** [C] *fml* a defeat or change to a worse condition; SETBACK: *The defeat of these proposals was a serious reverse for the President.* | *After several reverses the enemy was forced to retreat.* **4** [*the*] the side of a coin that does not show a person's head: *The British ten-pence piece has a lion on the reverse.* —opposite **obverse**; see also HEADS, TAILS

reverse dis·crim·i·na·tion /·ˌ· ···'··/ *n* [U] the act or idea of treating a usu. favoured group in an unfair way in order to give advantage to a group which is usu. treated unfairly: *Bakke claimed that he was a victim of reverse discrimination because he, a white man, was denied entry to medical school so that the school could admit more black people.* —compare POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION

reversing light /·'·· ˌ·/ also **back-up light** *AmE*— *n* a light on the back of a car which comes on when the car is going backwards

re·ver·sion /rɪ'vɜːʃən‖rɪ'vɜːrʒən/ *n* [S;U+**to**] *fml* **1** a return to a former (usu. undesirable) condition or habit: *the danger of a reversion to anarchy in the region* **2** *law* the reverting of property to an owner

re·vert /rɪ'vɜːt‖-ɜːrt/ *v*

revert to sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to go back to (a former, usu. undesirable condition or habit): *After the settlers left, the area soon reverted to desert.* | *We thought he was a reformed character, but he soon* **reverted to type** *and started stealing again.* [+*v-ing*] *He's stopped taking drugs now, but he may revert to taking them again.* **2** to talk about or consider again; go back to (a former subject of conversation): *I'd like to revert to your earlier point about our export trade.* **3** *law* (esp. of land) to become the property of (a former owner) again: *When he dies his land will revert to the state.*

re·vet·ment /rɪ'vetmənt/ *n tech* a surface of stone or other building material added for strength to a wall that holds back loose earth, water, etc.

re·view[1] /rɪ'vjuː/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) reviewing (REVIEW[2] (1)): *an annual review of the department's expenditure* | *The state medical service has been/come very much* **under review** *recently.* | *All prices are subject to review.* (=may

be changed) **2 a** [C] a magazine or newspaper article that gives a judgment on a new book, play, television show, etc.: *I hope your new book gets good|favourable reviews.* **b** [U] the writing of these articles: *A* **review copy** *of a book is one that is sent to a magazine for review|for review purposes.* **3** [C] an official show of the armed forces in the presence of a king, president, officer of high-rank, etc.: *a naval review* **4** [C] a REVUE

review[2] *v* **1** [T] to consider and judge carefully (an event or situation): *The committee is reviewing its decision.* | *The airport authorities have promised to review their security arrangements.* **2** [I;T] to write a REVIEW[1] (2) of (a play, book, etc.): *The play was very well reviewed.* (=was praised by the reviewers) | *Susan has been doing some reviewing for "The Times".* **3** [T] to hold a REVIEW[1] (3) of (armed forces) **4** [I;T] *AmE for* REVISE (3)

re·view·er /rɪ'vjuːəʳ/ *n* a person who writes REVIEWS[1] (2)

re·vile /rɪ'vaɪl/ *v* [T] *fml* to express hatred of; speak very strongly and angrily to or about: *Their much reviled system in fact works far better than many highly praised ones elsewhere.* —**viler** *n*

re·vise /rɪ'vaɪz/ *v* **1** [T] to change (opinions, intentions, etc.) because of new information or more thought: *I can see I'll have to revise my ideas about Tom – he's really quite clever after all.* | *Our original forecast of this year's profits has now been* **revised upwards.** (=we now think profits will be higher) **2** [T] to read through (a piece of writing) carefully, making improvements and putting mistakes right: *He revised the manuscript of his book before sending it to the publisher.* **3** [I (**for**);T] *BrE*‖**review** *AmE*— to study again (lessons or a subject already learnt), usu. before an examination: *I'm revising my history notes for the exam on Monday.* —**reviser** *n*

Revised Stan·dard Ver·sion /ˌ·· ·· '··/ also **RSV**— *n* a revision of the Bible prepared by American SCHOLARS which came out in 1952

Revised Ver·sion /ˌ· '··/ [*the*] a British revision of the Authorized Version of the Bible printed in 1881 and 1885

re·vi·sion /rɪ'vɪʒən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (an act of) revising something, esp. a piece of writing: *That book needs a lot of revision|has already had three revisions.* **2** [C] a piece of writing that has been revised **3** [U (**for**)] *BrE* the work of studying again lessons already learnt: *She did some revision for the exam.*

re·vi·sion·is·m /rɪ'vɪʒənɪzəm/ *n* [U] *often derog* the questioning of the main beliefs of an already existing political system, esp. a Marxist one —**-ist** *adj, n*

re·vi·tal·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /riː'vaɪtəl-aɪz/ *v* [T] to put new strength or power into: *The discovery of vast new coalfields has revitalized our mining industry.* —compare DEVITALIZE —**-ization** /riːˌvaɪtəl-aɪ'zeɪʃən‖-tələ-/ *n* [U]

re·vi·val /rɪ'vaɪvəl/ *n* **1** [C;U] a case of something being brought back into use or existence; renewal: *There has been a|some revival of interest in this composer's music.*| *a revival in consumer demand after a period of slow business* **2** [C] a performance of an old play after many years: *She starred in a revival of "West Side Story".* **3** [C] also **revival meeting** /·'·· ˌ··/— a public religious meeting, with music, famous speakers, etc., intended to waken and increase people's interest in Christianity

re·vi·val·ist /rɪ'vaɪvəl‿ɪst/ *n* a person who holds revival meetings

revival tent /·'·· ˌ·/ *n AmE* a large tent which is moved from place to place for the holding of REVIVALS (3): *a revival tent preacher*

re·vive /rɪ'vaɪv/ *v* **1** [I;T] to become or make conscious or healthy again: *That rose will revive if you water it.* | *He felt rather faint but the fresh air soon revived him.* **2** [I;T] to come or bring back into use or existence: *Interest in this composer's music has revived recently.* | *It's nice that these old customs are being revived.* | *The company are going to revive an old musical for their next production.*| *Seeing her old schoolfriend again revived memories of her childhood.*

re·viv·i·fy /riː'vɪvɪ‿faɪ/ *v* [T] *fml* to give new life and health to

rev·o·ca·tion /ˌrevə'keɪʃən/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) revoking (REVOKE (1)): *the revocation of an order*

re·voke /rɪ'vəʊk/ *v* **1** [T] to put an end to (a law, decision, permission, etc.); CANCEL: *The government has revoked its permission for them to enter the country.* —see also IRREVOCABLE **2** [I] (in card games such as BRIDGE) to break the rules by playing a card of the wrong kind (SUIT) when one has a card of the right kind

re·volt[1] /rɪ'vəʊlt/ *v* **1** [I (**against**)] (esp. of a large number of people) to take strong and often violent action against those in power, usu. with the aim of taking power from them; REBEL: *The people revolted against the military government.* **2** [I+*prep*;T] to (cause to) feel sick and shocked; (cause to) turn away with violent dislike: *We were revolted by their cruelty.* | *All civilized people will revolt at|from|against this terrible crime.* —see also REVULSION

revolt[2] *n* **1** [C;U (**against**)] (an example of) the act of revolting (REVOLT[1] (1)): *They seized power in a revolt.* | *The whole nation is* **in** *(a state of)* **revolt** *against the tyrannical regime.* | (fig.) *The president faces a revolt among his own supporters in the Senate if he persists with this plan.* (=they will refuse to support him) **2** [(**in**) U] REVULSION

re·volt·ing /rɪ'vəʊltɪŋ/ *adj* extremely unpleasant; DISGUSTING: *a revolting smell of bad eggs* | *Their sexual practices were revolting to her.* —~**ly** *adv* : *Your socks are revoltingly dirty.*

rev·o·lu·tion /ˌrevə'luːʃən/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a time of) great, usu. sudden, social and political change, esp. the changing of a ruler and/or political system by force: *the French revolution* | *The constant oppression of the workers led inevitably to strife and revolution.* —see also AMERICAN REVOLUTION, COUNTER-REVOLUTION, CULTURAL REVOLUTION, FRENCH REVOLUTION, INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, PALACE REVOLUTION, RUSSIAN REVOLUTION **2** [C (**in**)] a complete change in ways of thinking, methods of working, etc.: *The invention of air travel caused a revolution in our way of living.*| *the computer revolution* **3** [C;U (**round**)] (one complete) circular movement round a fixed point: *the revolution of the moon round the Earth* | *The Earth makes one revolution round the sun each year.* **4** [C] also **rev** *infml*— (in a machine) one complete circular movement on a central point, e.g. of a wheel: *a speed of 100 revolutions per minute* —see also REVOLVE (1)

rev·o·lu·tion·a·ry[1] /ˌrevə'luːʃənəri◂‖-ʃəneri◂/ *adj* **1** [A] connected with or being a REVOLUTION (1): *a revolutionary leader* | *He suffered for his revolutionary principles.* **2** *usu. apprec* completely new and different: *a revolutionary new way of growing rice*

revolutionary[2] *n* a person who joins in or supports a REVOLUTION (1): *The revolutionaries are attacking the palace.*

Revolutionary War /ˌ····· '·/ [*the*] another name for the AMERICAN REVOLUTION

rev·o·lu·tion·ize also **-ise** *BrE* /ˌrevə'luːʃənaɪz/ *v* [T] to cause a complete change in; cause a REVOLUTION (2) in: *The discovery of the new drug has revolutionized the treatment of many diseases.*

re·volve /rɪ'vɒlv‖rɪ'vɑːlv/ *v* **1** [I;T (**on**)] to (cause to) spin round on a central point: *The Earth revolves on its own axis once every 24 hours.* | *The hotel has revolving doors.* **2** [I+*adv|prep*;T] *fml rare* to consider or be considered carefully: *He revolved the main points in his mind.* | *All sorts of mad ideas revolved in|around my mind.*

revolve around sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] **1** [*not in progressive forms*] to have as a centre or main subject: *A baby's life revolves mainly around its mother.* | *He thinks the whole world revolves around him.* (=He thinks he is more important than anyone/anything else.) **2** *esp. AmE for* REVOLVE **round**

revolve round/about sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to move in circles round: *The moon revolves round the Earth.*

revolving door



re·volv·er /rɪ'vɒlvəʳ‖rɪ'vɑːl-/ *n* a PISTOL (=a small gun) which has a revolving container for bullets, allowing several shots to be fired without reloading —see picture at GUN

revolving door /·ˌ·· '·/ *n* a door that has four pieces of wood or glass set at RIGHT ANGLES to each other and which

move in a circle around a central point. This type of door is usu. used as an entrance to large buildings and not houses and allows people to come in without losing all the heat inside the building.

re·vue , review /rɪ'vju:/ *n* a light theatrical show with short acts, songs, dances, and jokes, esp. about the events and fashions of the present time

re·vul·sion /rɪ'vʌlʃən/ *n* [S;U (**against**)] (a) feeling of being deeply shocked and revolted (REVOLT¹ (2)): *The scenes of torture produced a feeling of revulsion in most viewers.* | *They turned away in revulsion.*

re·ward¹ /rɪ'wɔ:d‖-ɔ:rd/ *n* **1** [C;U] (something gained or received as) a return for doing something good or valuable: *As a reward for passing her exams, she got a new bike from her parents.* | *A pension of £3000 a year is not much of a reward for a lifetime's service.* | *I don't expect anything* **in reward**; *I did it because I enjoyed it.* | *They will expect some reward after working so hard.* | *The job isn't well paid, but there are rewards.* (=it brings advantages in other ways) **2** [C (**for**)] an amount of money given to someone who helps the police or brings back lost property: *The police are offering a big reward for information about the robbery.*

reward² *v* [T (**for, with**)] to give a reward to (someone) or for (an action): *He was generously rewarded.* | *They rewarded the boy with £5 for bringing back the lost dog.* | *How can I reward your kindness?* | *After hours of searching, their patience was rewarded and they found what they were looking for.*

re·ward·ing /rɪ'wɔ:dɪŋ‖-ɔ:r-/ *adj* (of an experience or action) worth doing or having; giving satisfaction, but perhaps not much money: *Nursing can be a very rewarding career.*

re·wind¹ /ˌri:'waɪnd/ *v* [I;T] to (cause to) wind backwards or in an opposite direction: *Rewind the tape and play that song again.* | *When it reaches the end the tape will rewind automatically.*

re·wind² /'ri:waɪnd/ *n* **1** an act of rewinding: *These tapes tend to fall apart after a dozen rewinds.* **2** also **rewind but·ton** /'·· ˌ··/— a button on a tape player or computer that causes a tape to rewind: *Push the rewind till the counter is back at zero.*

re·wire /ˌri:'waɪəʳ/ *v* [T] to put new electric wires into (a building)

re·word /ˌri:'wɜ:d‖-'wɜ:rd/ *v* [T] to say or write again in different words: *This section of the contract should be reworded to make its meaning clearer.*

re·work /ˌri:'wɜ:k‖-'wɜ:rk/ *v* [T] to put (music, writing, etc.) into a new and different form (in order to use again): *a reworking of familiar ideas*

re·write /ˌri:'raɪt/ *v* **-wrote** /'rəʊt/, **-written** /'rɪtn/ [T] to write again in a different, esp. more suitable way: *He had to rewrite the article when the lawyers pointed out the danger of libel.* —**rewrite** /'ri:raɪt/ *n* : *a modern rewrite of an old story*

Rex /reks/ *n Lat* **1** [after *n*] (the title used in official writing after the name of a ruling British king): *Georgius Rex* **2** *law* (used, when a king is ruling, in titles of British law cases) the governing power of the state: *in the action Rex v Jones* (=the state against Jones) —compare REGINA

Reye's syn·drome /'raɪz ˌsɪndrəʊm, 'reɪz-/ *n* [U] *med* a rare and dangerous illness which occurs usu. in children, and often after they have taken ASPIRIN. For this reason it is now not recommended (RECOMMEND) that children under 12 be given aspirin as a painkiller.

Rey·kja·vik /'reɪkjəvɪk/ the capital city and main port of Iceland. It is the centre of the COD-fishing industry.

Rey·nard the Fox /ˌrenɑ:d ðə 'fɒks; ˌreɪ-‖-ɑ:rd ðə 'fɑ:ks/ *BrE* a FOX in various old stories, which represents a man who, while breaking certain of society's rules, always escapes punishment by his cleverness

Rey·nolds /'renəldz/, **Burt** /bɜ:t‖bɜ:rt/ (1936–) an American film actor known for adventure films and comedies (COMEDY) such as *Deliverance, City Heat,* and *Smokey and the Bandit*

Reynolds, Sir Joshua (1723–92) an English painter who became the first president of the ROYAL ACADEMY. He is famous esp. for his PORTRAITS.

RFD /ˌɑ:r ef 'di:/ *n* [U] *AmE* rural free delivery; used for postal addresses outside towns: *Our address is R.F.D.3, Mayberry, Arkansas.*

rhap·so·dize also **-dise** *BrE* /'ræpsədaɪz/ *v* [I (**about, over**)] to express eager and excited approval: *Mother rhapsodized about|over your beautiful kitchen.*

rhap·so·dy /'ræpsədi/ *n* **1** [(**about, over**)] an expression of eager and excited approval: *They all* **went into** (=expressed) **rhapsodies** *over the beauty of the scenery.* **2** a dreamy piece of music written as if made up as one plays it, not in any regular form —**dic** /ræp'sɒdɪk‖-'sɑ:-/ *adj* : *a rhapsodic passage in the slow movement of the symphony*

rhea /'rɪə, 'ri:ə/ *n* a large South American bird like the OSTRICH but smaller

rheo·stat /'rɪəstæt/ *n* an instrument that controls the loudness of radio sound or the brightness of electric light, by limiting the flow of electric current

rhe·sus /'ri:səs/ also **rhesus mon·key** /'·· ˌ··/— *n* a small short-tailed pale brown North Indian monkey, often used in scientific tests

Rhesus fac·tor /'·· ˌ··/ also **Rh factor**— [*the*] *tech* a substance whose presence (**Rhesus positive**) or absence (**Rhesus negative**) in the red blood cells may have dangerous effects when a person receives the blood of another person during medical treatment

rhet·o·ric /'retərɪk/ *n* [U] **1** the art of speaking or writing in a way that is likely to persuade or influence people **2** the language used, esp. by politicians, in doing this: *Despite their tough anti-American rhetoric, the government is privately trying to maintain good relations with the US.* **3** *derog* speech or writing that sounds fine and important, but is really insincere or without meaning

rhe·tor·i·cal /rɪ'tɒrɪkəl‖-'tɔ:-, -'tɑ:-/ *adj* **1** (of a question) asked only to gain an effect, and not expecting any answer: *a* **rhetorical question,** *such as "Who knows how long the war will last?"* **2** of, connected with, or showing rhetoric: *The speaker showed great rhetorical skill.* —**~ly** /kli/ *adv* : *I was only asking rhetorically; I didn't really expect an answer.*

rhet·o·ri·cian /ˌretə'rɪʃən/ *n fml* a person trained and skilled in RHETORIC (1)

rheu·mat·ic /ru:'mætɪk/ *adj* **1** of or connected with RHEUMATISM: *a rheumatic condition of the joints* **2** suffering from rheumatism: *a rheumatic old woman who can't walk very fast* —see also RHEUMATICS

rheumatic fe·ver /ˌ·· '··/ *n* [U] a serious infectious disease, esp. in children, with fever, swelling of the joints, and possible damage to the heart

rheu·mat·ick·y /ru:'mætɪki/ *adj infml for* RHEUMATIC (2)

rheu·mat·ics /ru:'mætɪks/ *n* [P] *infml, esp. BrE* rheumatism

rheu·ma·tis·m /'ru:mətɪzəm/ *n* [U] a disease causing pain and stiffness in the joints or muscles of the body

rheu·ma·toid /'ru:mətɔɪd/ *adj tech* of rheumatism or a long-continuing disease (**rheumatoid arthritis**) causing pain and stiffness in the joints of the legs and arms and often making them lose their proper shape

Rh fac·tor /ˌɑ:r 'eɪtʃ ˌfæktəʳ/ *n* the RHESUS FACTOR

Rhine /raɪn/ [*the*] the longest river in W Europe, which is used to carry coal and other products used in industry

rhine·stone /'raɪnstəʊn/ *n* [C;U] a shining colourless jewel made from glass or a transparent rock and intended to look like a diamond

Rhine wine /ˌ· '·/ *n* [C;U] any of several white wines produced in the Rhine valley

rhi·no·ce·ros /raɪ'nɒsərəs‖-'nɑ:-/ also **rhi·no** /'raɪnəʊ/ *infml*— *n* **rhinoceros** *or* **rhinoceroses** a large heavy thick-skinned animal of Africa or Asia, with either one or two horns on its nose

rhinoceros



rhi·no·plas·ty /'raɪnəʊˌplæsti/ *n* [U] plastic SURGERY of the nose, performed to improve the shape of a person's nose, usu. for reasons of appearance rather than any medical reason —see also NOSE JOB —**-plastic** *adj*

rhi·zome /'raɪzəʊm/ *n tech* the thick stem of some plants

such as the IRIS, which lies flat along the ground with roots and leaves growing from it

Rhode Is·land /ˈrəʊd ˌaɪlənd‖rəʊd ˈaɪlənd/ *written abbrev:* **RI** the smallest of the US states, in New England. It was one of the 13 original British colonies (COLONY). –see colour map on pages 1374–5

Rhode Island Red /ˌ·· ·· ˈ·‖· ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a type of American hen which has dark red-brown feathers

Rhodes /rəʊdz/ a large Greek island near the coast of Turkey. This island was known for one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the **Colossus of Rhodes**, which was destroyed by an EARTHQUAKE in about 224 BC.

Rhodes, Ce·cil /ˈsesl̩/ (1853–1902) a South African politician who was born in Britain and was PRIME MINISTER of the Cape Colony in 1890–96. He was responsible for the formation of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

Rhodes, Zan·dra /ˈzɑːndrə/ (1940–) an English fashion DESIGNER who is known for her expensive and strange dresses

Rho·de·si·a /rəʊˈdiːʃə‖-ʒə/ a former name for Zimbabwe –**-sian** *n,adj*

Rhodes Schol·ar·ship /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* a SCHOLARSHIP available to students from America, the British COMMONWEALTH, and Germany to allow them to study at Oxford University – **Rhodes scholar** *n*

rho·do·den·dron /ˌrəʊdəˈdendrən/ *n* a large bush which has large bright flowers and which keeps its leaves in winter

rhom·boid[1] /ˈrɒmbɔɪd‖ˈrɑːm-/ *n tech* (in GEOMETRY) a four-sided shape whose opposite sides are equal; PARALLELOGRAM –see picture at QUADRILATERAL

rhomboid[2] also **rhom·boid·al** /rɒmˈbɔɪdl‖rɑːm-/– *adj* [*no comp.*] *tech* in the shape of a rhombus

rhom·bus /ˈrɒmbəs‖ˈrɑːm-/ *n tech* (in GEOMETRY) a shape with four equal straight sides, esp. one that is not square –see picture at QUADRILATERAL

Rhon·dda /ˈrɒndə‖ˈrɑː-/ a DISTRICT in Wales, sometimes called **the Rhondda valley**, and mainly known for coalmining, although this is no longer so important in the area

Rhône /rəʊn/ an important river in Europe, used for HYDROELECTRIC power in France

rhu·barb /ˈruːbɑːb‖-ɑːrb/ *n* **1** [U] a broad-leaved garden plant whose thick red juicy stems are eaten, often having been stewed (STEW[1] (1)) and served with CUSTARD **2** [U] *infml* the sound made by actors to suggest many people talking at the same time **3** [C] *AmE old fash* a noisy argument

rhyme[1] /raɪm/ *n* **1** [C] a short and not serious piece of writing, using words that rhyme: *He made up funny rhymes to amuse the children.* –see also NURSERY RHYME **2** [C (**for**)] a word that rhymes with another: *"Fold" and "cold" are rhymes.* | *I can't find a rhyme for "donkey".* **3** [U] (the use of) words that rhyme at the ends of the lines in poetry: *Shakespeare sometimes wrote in rhyme.* **4 rhyme or reason** [*usu. in negatives*] (any) sense or meaning: *There doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason in his demands – is he mad?*

rhyme[2] *v* [*not in progressive forms*] **1** [I (**with**)] (of words or lines of poetry) to end with the same sound, including a vowel: *"House" rhymes with "mouse".* | *"School" and "fool" rhyme.* | *The last two lines of this poem don't rhyme properly.* **2** [T (**with**)] to put together (words or one word with another) ending with the same sound, including a vowel: *You can rhyme "duty" with "beauty" but you can't rhyme "box" and "backs".* | *a rhyming couplet* (=two lines of poetry that rhyme)

rhyme·ster /ˈraɪmstəʳ/ *n old use derog* a writer of poems, esp. bad ones

rhyming slang /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] (the use, esp. by some people from London (COCKNEYS), of) words and phrases that rhyme with those which are really meant: *"Plates of meat" is rhyming slang for "feet".*

rhyth·m /ˈrɪðəm/ *n* [C;U] (a) regular repeated pattern of sounds or movements: *This music is written in a rhythm of three beats to a bar.* | *the rhythm of his heartbeats* | *the exciting rhythms of African drum music* | *the* **rhythm section** *of a band* (=drums and other instruments that provide a strong beat) | (fig.) *the rhythm of the seasons* –compare METRE[2]; see also BIORHYTHMS

rhythm and blues /ˌ·· · ˈ·/ also **R and B**– *n* [U] a type of popular music which is a mixture of BLUES and JAZZ and often uses amplified (AMPLIFY) instruments to make a powerful beat. It was first developed by black musicians, who greatly influenced many ROCK musicians.

rhyth·mic /ˈrɪðmɪk/ also **rhyth·mi·cal** /-kəl/– *adj* having rhythm: *the rhythmic beating of one's heart* –see also EURHYTHMICS – ~**ally** /kli/ *adv*

rhythmic gym·nas·tics /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* [U] a kind of GYMNASTICS in which people perform with long RIBBONS, balls, and HOOPS (ring-like objects) to music

rhythm meth·od /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* [*the*] a method of BIRTH CONTROL which depends on having sex only at a time when the woman is not likely to CONCEIVE

►CULTURAL NOTE This is a method commonly used by people such as ROMAN CATHOLICS who believe that any other form of birth control is wrong, because they think that the purpose of sex is to have children and that it is wrong to do anything to interfere with this process.◄

RI /ˌɑːr ˈaɪ/ **1** *abbrev. for:* RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION **2** *written abbrev. for:* RHODE ISLAND

ri·al /riˈɑːl‖riˈɔːl, -ˈɑːl/ *n* a RIYAL

rib[1] /rɪb/ *n* **1** any of the 12 pairs of bones running round the chest of a person or animal, from the SPINE to where they join at the front: *He suffered three cracked ribs in the accident.* | *We're having roast ribs of beef for dinner.* – see picture at SKELETON

►CULTURAL NOTE According to the Bible, God made Eve, the first woman, from one of the ribs of Adam, the first man.◄

2 a curved piece of wood, metal, etc. used for forming or strengthening a frame: *the ribs of a boat|an umbrella* **3** one of a group of long thin raised lines in a pattern: *the ribs of a leaf* **4 dig|poke someone in the ribs** to push someone with a finger or the elbow so as to attract attention

rib[2] *v* **-bb-** [T] *infml* to make fun of in a friendly way; laugh at: *All the boys ribbed him for keeping a pet pig.*

rib·ald /ˈrɪbəld/ *adj fml* rudely humorous in a loud, insensitive, and disrespectful way: *ribald jokes* | *the ribald laughter of the drunken men* | *a crowd of ribald soldiers*

rib·ald·ry /ˈrɪbəldri/ *n* [U] *fml* ribald language or jokes: *We've had enough of this ribaldry – this is a serious occasion.*

ribbed /rɪbd/ *adj* having a pattern of long thin raised lines: *a ribbed fabric* | *ribbed socks*

Rib·ben·trop /ˈrɪbəntrɒp‖-trɑːp/, **Jo·a·chim von** /ˈjəʊəkɪm vɒn‖-vɑːn/ (1893–1946) a German leader in the NAZI PARTY who advised Hitler on foreign affairs and was German AMBASSADOR to Britain from 1936–38. He was tried and hanged at Nuremberg as a war criminal.

rib·bing /ˈrɪbɪŋ/ *n* [U] a pattern of long thin raised lines in knitting (KNIT): *the ribbing round the tops of his socks*

rib·bon /ˈrɪbən/ also **rib·and** /ˈrɪbənd/*old use*– *n* **1** [C;U] (a piece of) silk or other material woven in a long narrow band and used for tying things, for decoration, etc.: *She wore red ribbons in her hair.* | *I must get some more typewriter ribbon.* **2** [C] a piece of ribbon in a special colour or pattern, worn to show that one has received a particular military honour **3** [C] a long irregular narrow band; STRIP: *The old torn curtains hung in ribbons.* | *The cat has* **torn** *my scarf* **to ribbons.** | *His coat was* **in ribbons.** (=very badly torn) | (fig.) *a ribbon of mist along the river bank*

ribbon de·vel·op·ment /ˈ·· ·ˌ···/ *n* [U] *usu. derog* (the practice of building) long lines of houses along the sides of main roads leading out of a city

rib cage /ˈ· ·/ *n* the arrangement of RIBS in the body that encloses and protects the lungs –see picture at RESPIRATORY

Ri·be·na /raɪˈbiːnə/ *n* [U] *tdmk* a drink made from BLACKCURRANTS and sugar which is very popular in Britain with young children, mixed with cold or hot water

ri·bo·fla·vin /ˌraɪbəʊˈfleɪvl̩n‖ˌraɪbə-/ *n* [U] *tech* a substance (VITAMIN B2) that exists naturally in meat, milk, and certain vegetables, and is important for human health

rice /raɪs/ *n* [U] **1** a plant grown in wet warm places for its seed **2** the seed of this plant, which is cooked and eaten everywhere in the world: *a plate of boiled rice* |

chicken and fried rice —see also BROWN RICE, WILD RICE, and see picture at CEREAL

Rice, An·ne·ka /ˈænɨkə/ (1958–) a woman, popular on British television, who became known through the programme *Treasure Hunt* in which she had to do a lot of running and travelling by HELICOPTER to try to find hidden TREASURE

Rice-Da·vies /ˌ· ˈ··/, **Mandy** (1944–) an English model known for her involvement in the Profumo SCANDAL in 1963 because of her friendship with Christine Keeler — see PROFUMO SCANDAL

Rice Kris·pies, rice crispies /ˌraɪs ˈkrɪspiz/ *n* [P] *tdmk* a breakfast food made from rice and usu. eaten with milk and sugar. In advertising, Rice Krispies are sold with the phrase "snap, crackle, and pop" because this is supposed to describe the noise they make when you pour milk onto them.

rice pad·dy /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a PADDY¹

rice pa·per /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** a thin paper made esp. in China and used by ARTISTS there **2** a special form of this that can be eaten, and is used in cooking, esp. on the bottom of certain BISCUITS to stop them sticking to the tin while they cook

rice pud·ding /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a sweet dish made of rice, milk, and sugar which is cooked for a long time in an OVEN. In Britain it is considered to be TRADITIONAL British food, but is not very common now.

rich /rɪtʃ/ *adj* **1** [also *n*, (*the*)P] wealthy; possessing a lot of money or other valuable goods or property: *a rich banker* | *Times are hard for* **rich and poor** *alike.* | *The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.* **2** [F+**in**] also **-rich**— possessing or containing a lot of the stated thing: *Sardines are rich in oil.* | *The canal had been receiving nitrogen-rich run off from agricultural lands for years.* | *a city rich in ancient buildings* **3** expensive, valuable, and beautiful: *The walls were hung with rich silks.* **4** (of food) containing a lot of cream, sugar, eggs, etc.: *a very rich Christmas cake* **5** (of land) good for growing plants in; FERTILE: *rich soil* | (fig.) *This subject offers a rich field for advanced study.* **6** (of a sound or colour) deep, strong, and beautiful: *the rich notes of the church organ* | *a rich dark red* **7** [F] *infml* amusing but often rather annoying: *"They've made John the captain." "***That's rich!** *Even I can play football better than him!"* —opposite **poor** (for 1,5) **8 for richer for poorer** *quote* part of the Christian marriage service, in which the people getting married promise to love each other whether they are rich or poor —see also MARRIAGE — **~ness** *n* [U] : *the richness of the furnishings|the soil|the food*

Rich·ard /ˈrɪtʃəd‖-ərd/, **Cliff** (1940–) an English popular music singer who has been making popular music since the 1950s, originally with his group The Shadows. His hit songs include *Living Doll, Move It,* and *We Don't Talk Anymore*. He is well known for his youthful appearance and his Christian faith.

Cliff Richard



Richard I /ˌrɪtʃəd ðə ˈfɜːst‖-ərd ðə ˈfɜːrst/ (1157–99) see RICHARD THE LIONHEART

Richard II /ˌrɪtʃəd ðə ˈsekənd‖-ərd-/ **1** (1367–1400) the king of England from 1377 to 1399, who had many of his opponents killed so that he had complete power. He was removed by PARLIAMENT and died mysteriously after being imprisoned in 1399. **2** a play by William Shakespeare about the life of Richard II

Richard III /ˌrɪtʃəd ðə ˈθɜːd‖-ərd ðə ˈθɜːrd/ **1** (1452–85) the king of England from 1483 to 1485 thought to have ordered the killing of his NEPHEWS. He was killed at the battle of Bosworth Field after losing his horse. **2** a play by William Shakespeare about the life of Richard III. It includes the line: **A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!**, said by Richard III when he has lost his horse during the battle of Bosworth Field.

Rich·ards /ˈrɪtʃədz‖-ərdz/, **Viv** /vɪv/ (1952–) a West Indian CRICKETER

Richard Shops /ˈ·· ˌ·/ (the name of) a group of shops found in large towns in Britain which sell women's fashions

Rich·ard·son /ˈrɪtʃədsən‖-ərd-/ , Sir **Ralph** /rælf/ (1902–83) an English actor known for his Shakespearean ROLES on stage, as well as films such as *Our Man in Havana* and *O Lucky Man!*

Richardson, Sam·u·el /ˈsæmjuəl/ (1689–1761) an English writer who influenced the development of the modern NOVEL, with such books as *Pamela* and *Clarissa*, written in the form of letters

Richard the Lionheart /ˌ·· · ˈ··· / also **Richard Coeur de Li·on** /-ˈkɜː də ˈliːɒn‖-ˌkɜːr də ˈlaɪən/— (1157–99) Richard I, the King of England from 1189 to 1199, who spent a long time fighting in the CRUSADES (=holy wars) and who was popular for his gentlemanly behaviour and his bravery

Riche·lieu /ˈriːʃljɜː‖ˈriːʃəluː/, **Cardinal** (1585–1642) a French CARDINAL who was very powerful and had a lot of influence with the French King Louis XIII. He is remembered esp. for destroying the political power of the Huguenots in France.

rich·es /ˈrɪtʃɨz/ *n* [P] *esp. lit* wealth: *His success had brought him vast riches.*

rich·ly /ˈrɪtʃli/ *adv* **1** splendidly; in a large quantity: *The queen's dress was richly decorated with jewels.* **2** fully: *They got the punishment they so* **richly deserved.**

Rich·mond /ˈrɪtʃmənd/ **1** a market town in N Yorkshire, England **2** the capital city of Virginia, in the East of the US, known for producing tobacco. It was the capital of the CONFEDERACY during the American CIVIL WAR. **3** a COUNTY of New York City which includes Staten Island

Richmond-u·pon-Thames /ˌ·· ·· ˈ·/ a BOROUGH of SW Greater London, England, containing Kew Gardens and Hampton Court Palace

Rich Tea /ˌ· ˈ·/ the name of a plain sweet BISCUIT made by McVities

Rich·ter scale /ˈrɪktə ˌskeɪl, ˈrɪx-‖-tər-/ [*the*] a scale used to measure the strength of EARTHQUAKES; the range is from one to ten, ten being the strongest

Richt·ho·fen /ˈrɪkthəʊfən, ˈrɪxt-/, **Baron von** /ˈbærən vɒn‖-vɑːn/ (1892–1918) a German aircraft pilot, known as **the Red Baron**. He shot down 80 aircraft in the First World War before being killed in action.

rick¹ /rɪk/ *n* a large pile of wheat stems or dried grass that stands out in the open air until it is needed: *a hay rick*

rick² *v* [T] *esp. BrE* to twist (a joint or part of the body) slightly: *I've ricked my back|my ankle.*

rick·ets /ˈrɪkɨts/ *n* [U] a children's disease caused by lack of the VITAMIN D provided by sunshine, butter, fresh milk, etc., which makes the bones become soft and bent

rick·et·y /ˈrɪkɨti/ *adj infml* weakly joined and likely to break; unsteady: *rickety old stairs* | *a rickety chair*

rick·rack /ˈrɪkræk/ *n* [U] *AmE* a narrow piece of cloth (a RIBBON) in a ZIGZAG shape used to decorate clothing, etc.

rick·shaw /ˈrɪkʃɔː/ *n* a small two-wheeled vehicle used in parts of East Asia for carrying one or two passengers and powered by a man either pulling or cycling

ric·o·chet¹ /ˈrɪkəʃeɪ/ *n* **1** a sudden sharp change in the direction of a moving object such as a stone or bullet when it hits a surface at an angle **2 a** an object to which this has happened: *She was wounded by a ricochet, not by a direct hit.* **b** the sound made by a ricochet

ricochet² *v* **-cheted** /ʃeɪd/ *or* **-chetted** /ʃetɨd/ [I (**off**)] to change direction in a ricochet: *The bullet ricocheted off the metal girder.*

ri·cot·ta /rɪˈkɒtə‖-ˈkɔː-/ *n* [U] a type of Italian cheese made from sheep's milk, and often used in PASTA dishes, esp. with SPINACH

rid /rɪd/ *v* **rid** *or* **ridded, rid,** *present participle* **ridding**
rid sbdy./sthg. **of** sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to make (esp. a place) free of (something harmful or unwanted): *One day we will manage to rid the world of this terrible disease.* | *You must rid yourself of these old-fashioned ideas.* | *He's gone, and I'm glad to be rid of him.* **2 get rid of: a** to free oneself from (something unwanted): *I've tried all sorts of medicines to get rid of this cold.* **b** to drive, send, throw, or give away or destroy: *How can we get rid of all these flies in the kitchen?* | *He just sat there talking all evening and I couldn't get rid of him.*

rid·dance /ˈrɪdəns/ *n infml* **good riddance** (said rudely

when one is glad that someone or something has gone): *"They've gone at last." "Good riddance (to them)!"*

-ridden see WORD FORMATION

rid·dle[1] /ˈrɪdl/ *n* **1** a difficult and often amusing question to which one must guess the answer: *Christmas crackers with a gift and a riddle inside* | (fig.) *You're speaking in riddles; why can't you just say what you mean in an uncomplicated way?* **2** a mystery; something one cannot understand: *Robert's disappearance is a complete riddle.*

riddle[2] *n* a large SIEVE, as used for separating earth from stones in the garden

riddle[3] *v* [T] to pass (earth, corn, ashes, etc.) through a RIDDLE[2]

riddle sbdy./sthg. **with** sthg. *phr v* [T *usu. pass.*] **1** to make many holes in (a person or thing) by means of: *The gunman riddled the car with bullets.* **2** to make full of, and so damage: *The tent's riddled with holes and the rain's coming in.* | *The whole report is riddled with* (=full of) *errors.*

ride[1] /raɪd/ *v* **rode** /rəʊd/, **ridden** /ˈrɪdn/ **1** [T] to travel along, controlling and sitting on (a horse or other animal, a bicycle, or a motorcycle): *Can you ride a bicycle?* | *I'll ride the old horse and you ride the pony.* | *The winning horse was ridden by Willie Carson.* –compare DRIVE[1] (1); see DRIVE (USAGE) **2** [I] *esp. BrE* to travel along controlling and sitting on a horse, for exercise and pleasure: *Who taught you to ride?* | *We're going riding on Saturday.* | *a riding school* (=a place where people are taught to ride horses) **3** [I+*adv/prep*] to go somewhere controlling and sitting on a horse, bicycle, etc.: *We rode across the fields.* | *He got on his bicycle and rode slowly off down the road.* **4** [I (**on, in**)] to be carried along on an animal, on or in a vehicle, etc.; travel: *His dog likes to ride with him on his motorbike.* | *riding on a camel in the desert* | *The little boy rode on his father's shoulders.* | *riding in an open carriage* **5** [T] *esp. AmE* **a** to travel in, esp. habitually: *riding the freight trains* **b** to travel across, usu. on horseback: *The cowboy rode the range.* **6** [I+*adv*] (of a vehicle) to travel over a surface in the stated manner: *This car rides smoothly.* **7** [I+*adv/prep*; T] *lit* (of a ship) to move or float (on): *The boat* **rode at anchor** *in the channel.* | *The ship rode the rough sea.* **8** [T] *esp. AmE* to cause intentional and continual difficulty to; annoy: *Leave her alone and stop riding her – she's doing her best!* **9** [T] to move back so as to lessen the force of (a blow): *The boxer managed to ride the punch.* **10 let something ride** *infml* to let something continue, even if one does not really approve of it; take no action about something **11 ride for a fall** *infml* to behave in a risky way: *She's riding for a fall, investing all her money in that shaky company.* **12 ride high** to have great success, be in a top position, etc.: *The England team are riding high at the moment; they've won their last five matches.* **13 ride roughshod over** to act in an insensitive and hurtful way towards: *You can't just ride roughshod over people's feelings like that.*

ride sbdy. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T] **1** to chase and reach on one's horse **2** to knock down with one's horse

ride on sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to depend on: *It's vital that we win this contract; the whole future of the company is riding on it.*

ride sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] (of a ship) to keep floating until the end of (a period of bad weather): *We decided to try to ride out the storm rather than attempt to get back to harbour.* | (fig.) *With good financial management we should be able to ride out our current economic difficulties.*

ride up *phr v* [I] (of clothing) to move upward out of place: *This tight skirt rides up when I sit down.*

ride[2] *n* **1** [(**on, in**)] a journey on an animal, in a vehicle, etc.: *Shall we go for a ride in the car?* | *The town centre is only a short bus ride away.* | *Give me a ride on your back!* | *a ride on a donkey* **2** travel of the stated type on an animal or in a vehicle: *The champion jockey had an easy ride in the Derby* | (fig.) *I hear they gave you a pretty rough ride in the interview.* (=asked you very difficult questions, etc.) **3** a path, esp. through a wood, with a soft surface suitable for riding a horse on but not for vehicles **4 along for the ride** *infml* present with others but not taking part seriously: *They were going on a geology field trip, and as I had nothing better to do I said I'd come along for the ride.* **5 in for a bumpy ride** *infml:* likely to meet difficulties ahead **6 take someone for a ride** *infml* to deceive or cheat someone: *This contract is worthless; you've been taken for a ride!* see also **free ride** (FREE[1] (15))

Ride a Cock-Horse /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children):

Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross,
To see a fine lady upon a white horse,
With rings on her fingers, and bells on her toes,
She shall have music wherever she goes.

rid·er /ˈraɪdəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who rides or is riding esp. a horse **2** a statement, opinion, or piece of advice added esp. to an official declaration or judgment: [+*v-ing/that*] *The coroner decided that the child had been drowned, and added a rider (advising) that the lake should be filled in.* –~**less** *adj* : *a riderless horse*

ridge[1] /rɪdʒ/ *n* a long narrow raised part of a surface, such as the top of a range of mountains or of a sloping roof where the two sloping surfaces meet: *We walked along the mountain ridge.* | *The sea left a pattern of ridges and hollows on the sand.* | (fig.) *A* **ridge** (=long area) **of high pressure** *is approaching from the Atlantic and will bring sunny weather.* –see picture at MOUNTAIN

ridge[2] *v* [T] to make a ridge or ridges in: *The sea had ridged the sand with rippling patterns.*

ridge·pole /ˈrɪdʒpəʊl/ *n* **1** the pole along the top of the roof of a long tent **2** the piece of wood, etc., to which the sloping RAFTERS of the roof are joined

rid·i·cule[1] /ˈrɪdɪkjuːl/ *n* [U] language or behaviour intended to make someone or something appear foolish or worthless; unkind expression of amusement: *Her paintings, which were once* **held up to ridicule** (=made fun of as being silly), *are now widely acknowledged as masterpieces.* | *You* **lay yourself open to ridicule** (=will make people laugh at you) *by suggesting such an outlandish plan.* | *The minister declined to be interviewed on the television as he did not want to risk being* **exposed to public ridicule.**

ridicule[2] *v* [T] to laugh unkindly at; declare the foolishness of: *They all ridiculed my suggestion.*

ri·dic·u·lous /rɪˈdɪkjʊləs/ *adj derog* deserving ridicule; silly or unreasonable: *The fat old man looked ridiculous in his tight pink trousers.* | *What a ridiculous suggestion!* | *It's ridiculous that we should have to queue, when we've already got our tickets.* –~**ly** *adv* : *The exam was ridiculously* (=extremely) *easy.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

Ri·ding /ˈraɪdɪŋ/ *n* one of the three former parts of Yorkshire: *We've always lived in the West Riding of Yorkshire.*

riding hab·it /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a woman's set of clothing worn in former times for riding a horse in, usu. with a long skirt for riding with both legs on the same side of the horse

Rie·fen·stahl /ˈriːfənʃtɑːl/, **Le·ni** /ˈleɪni/ (1902–) a German film maker known for her association with Hitler. She made a film of the NAZI meetings at Nuremberg, and one about the 1936 Berlin OLYMPIC GAMES.

Ries·ling /ˈriːzlɪŋ/ *n* [C;U] a sweet or dry white wine with a light, flowery taste, made esp. in Germany

rife /raɪf/ *adj* [F] *esp. lit* **1** (of something bad) widespread; common: *Disease and violence were rife in the city.* **2** [+**with**] full (of something bad): *The whole system is rife with corruption.*

riff /rɪf/ *n* a repeated phrase in popular or JAZZ music

rif·fle /ˈrɪfəl/ *v*

riffle through sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to turn over (papers, pages, etc.) quickly with one's finger

riff·raff /ˈrɪfræf/ *n* [U+*sing./pl. v*] *derog* worthless badly-behaved people: *Why did she invite all this/these riffraff to her party?*

ri·fle[1] /ˈraɪfəl/ *n* a gun with a long rifled barrel, which is fired from the shoulder –compare HANDGUN, and see picture at GUN

rifle[2] *v* [T] to make GROOVES (curved cuts) inside (the barrel of a gun) so as to make the bullets spin

rifle[3] *v* [T] to search through and steal everything valuable from (e.g. a desk, drawers, handbag, etc.): *The drawers had been rifled and several valuable documents taken.*

rifle range /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a place where people practise shooting with rifles

ri·fling /ˈraɪflɪŋ/ *n* [U] the cuts (GROOVES) inside the barrel of a rifled gun

rift /rɪft/ *n* [(**between, in**)] a crack or narrow opening in a large mass: *The sun appeared through a rift in the clouds.* | (fig.) *I hope we can heal the rift between them – they used to be such good friends.*

rift val·ley /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a valley with very steep sides, formed by the cracking and slipping of the Earth's surface

rig[1] /rɪg/ *v* **-gg-** [T] to provide (a ship) with the necessary ropes, sails, etc.: *a fully-rigged vessel*

rig sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**as, in**)] to dress (someone) in special or funny clothes; DRESS **up** (1,2): *She was rigged out/She rigged herself out in a bright orange uniform.* | *They rigged the little boy out as a sailor.* –see also RIG-OUT

rig sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to put together for a short time out of materials easily found: *We can rig up an aerial from these pieces of wire.*

rig[2] *n* **1** the way a ship's sails and the MASTS that carry them are arranged: *Most modern yachts have a fore and aft rig, but the old galleons were square-rigged.* **2** (*usu. in comb.*) a piece of apparatus used for the stated purpose: *a drilling rig* –see also OILRIG **3** *infml* a set of clothes; the way a person is dressed: *He looked rather out of place when he turned up in full ceremonial rig.* –see also RIG-OUT **4** *infml, esp. AmE* a large TRUCK, esp. when fully loaded

rig[3] *v* **-gg-** [T] to arrange (an event) dishonestly for one's own advantage: *They complained that the election had been rigged.*

Ri·ga /ˈriːgə/ the capital city of Latvia

rig·a·ma·role /ˈrɪgəmərəʊl/ *n* RIGMAROLE

rig·a·to·ni /ˌrɪgəˈtəʊni/ *n* [P] a type of PASTA in the shape of short RIBBED tubes

Rigg /rɪg/, **Diana** (1938–) an English actress known for her appearances on television in the television SERIES *The Avengers*

rig·ging /ˈrɪgɪŋ/ *n* [(*the*) U] all the ropes, chains, etc., that hold up a ship's sails: *The sailor climbed up the rigging to see if he could sight land.* –see picture at YACHT

right[1] /raɪt/ *adj* **1** [A] on, for, or belonging to the side of the body away from the heart: *one's right arm/eye* | *my right shoe* **2** [A] on, by, or in the direction of one's right side: *the right bank of the river* | *Take a right turn at the crossroads.* **3** belonging to, connected with, or supporting the RIGHT[2] (2) in politics; RIGHT WING: *She's very right.* | *a small* **far-right** *party* (=with strong RIGHT WING views) –opposite **left**

right[2] *n* **1** [(*the*) U] the RIGHT[1] side or direction: *Keep to the right!* | *He doesn't know his left from his right.* | *Take the next turning on/to your right.* (=the next one you come to on your right side) | *The Conservative party is* **to the right of** *the Liberals.* **2** [*the*+*sing./pl. v*] (*often cap.*) political parties or groups, such as the Conservatives in Britain and the Republicans in the US, that have NATIONALISTIC views and are in favour of less state control and more FREE ENTERPRISE and choice. They generally support the employers or those in official positions rather than the workers: *The election results mean that the Right has/have gained control of the Senate.* –see also RIGHT WING **3** [C] a blow struck with the right hand: *He got me with a right to the jaw.* –opposite **left** **4 be somewhere to the right of Ghengis Khan/Attila the Hun** to have very strong RIGHT-WING political opinions

right[3] *adj* **1** just, proper, or morally correct; in accordance with accepted ideas of what is good: *I'll try to do whatever is right.* | *It's difficult to know what is the right thing to do in this situation.* | *It's not right to tell lies.* | *It's* **only right** *that you should know.* (=You ought to know.) | *I thought it right to tell you.* [+*to-v*] *You were quite right to report the matter to the police.* **2** [(**in**)] correct or true; in accordance with the facts: *Is that the right time?* | *He gave the right answer.* | *Would I be right in thinking that you come from Australia?* | *"Is this Piccadilly Circus?" "Yes, that's right."* **3** most suitable; best for a particular purpose: *Are we going in the right direction?* | *I think he's the right person for the job.* | *She's the sort of woman who always says the right things and knows the right* (=socially important) *people.* | *a newspaper with just the right mixture of serious comment and entertaining articles* **4** in a correct, satisfactory, or healthy state, position, etc.: *The wiring is all wrong – you'll have to call an electrician to put it right.* | *That picture isn't quite right – could you straighten it?* | *I'm sorry about all the trouble I've caused – I'll do my best to put/set things right.* | *A week by the sea will soon put you right again.* (=cure you or make you feel better) | *You've got a mild case of food poisoning, but don't worry – you'll be* **right as rain** (=perfectly healthy) *in a couple of days.* | *Don't pay any attention to what she says – she's not* **(quite) right in the head/in her right mind.** (=she's mad) **5** [A] *BrE infml* (esp. of something bad) complete; to a great degree: *That man's a right idiot!* **6 Right you are!** also **Right oh!**– *BrE infml* yes; I will; I agree: *"Shut the window, please." "Right you are!"* –opposite **wrong** (for 1,2,3) –see also RIGHTLY, **see someone right** (SEE[1] (22)) **7 right?** *infml* is that right?: *You're Mrs Smith's daughter, right?* – **~ness** *n* [U] : *They believe in the rightness of what they're doing.*

right[4] *n* **1** [U] what is RIGHT[3] (1): *You're old enough to know the difference between right and wrong.* **2** [C;U (**to, of**)] (a) morally just or legal claim: *She has a/the right to half your money.* | *the right to a fair trial* | *We fought for the right of access to government information.* [+*to-v*] *to exercise one's right to vote* | *You have no right to* (=should not) *treat me like this.* | *I know he's the boss, but that doesn't give him the right to order us around.* | *I've got every right to be annoyed.* (=it is quite reasonable that I am) | (*fml*) *Every shareholder will receive an invitation to the meeting* **as of right.** (=because they are SHAREHOLDERS, without any further special claim) | *She is British* **by right of** *birth.* | *You'd be quite* **within your rights** (=not going beyond your just claims) *to refuse to work on Sundays.* **3 in one's own right** because of a personal claim that does not depend on anyone else: *Elizabeth II is queen of England in her own right.* (=rather than through marriage to a king) **4 in the right** having justice on one's side; not deserving blame: *We must find out which of them was in the right.* –opposite **in the wrong** –see also RIGHTS

right[5] *adv* **1** towards the RIGHT[2] (1,2): *Turn right at the crossroads.* –opposite **left** **2** properly or correctly: *Luckily I guessed right.* | *Did I do it right?* –opposite **wrong** **3** [+*adv/prep*] exactly: *She was standing right in the middle of the room.* | *Do it right now.* | *The police arrived right at the moment of the explosion.* **4** [+*adv/prep*] directly; straight: *Go right home at once; don't stop off anywhere on the way.* | *There's the house, right in front of you.* | *right after breakfast* **5** [+*adv/prep*] completely; all the way: *Go right to the end of the road.* | *Go right back to the beginning.* | *I haven't read the book right through.* | *I'm* **right behind** *you there.* (=support you completely) **6** *BrE sl, NEngE, or old use* very: *He's a right argumentative little brat.* | *I'm right glad to see you, lad!* | (in some titles) *the Right Honourable John Jones* | *the Right Reverend Bishop Jenkins* **7** (used in answer to a suggestion or order) yes; I will; ALL RIGHT: *"Come tomorrow." "Right! What time?"* –see also ALL RIGHT **8 right and left** also **right, left, and centre**– *infml* everywhere or in every way: *We're losing money right and left.* **9 right away** also **right off** *esp. AmE*– at once; without delay **10 right ˈon** *sl* (used to express agreement or approval) exactly correct **11 Too right** *esp. AustrE* You are correct; I agree

right[6] *v* [T] to put (something) right or upright again; bring back to a correct position or condition: *The boat capsized but we soon righted it.* | *to* **right the wrongs** *that have been done to these people*

right an·gle /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* an angle of 90 degrees, e.g. at any of the four corners of a square: *Put the tables at right angles to each other.* –see picture at ANGLE

right-an·gled /ˈ· ˌ··/ *adj* (of a TRIANGLE) with one angle of 90 degrees –see picture at TRIANGLE

right-brain /ˈ· ·/ *adj* concerned with or resulting from the right side of the brain, which controls the left side of the body and also ARTISTIC and IMAGINATIVE thinking

right·eous /ˈraɪtʃəs/ *adj* **1** *esp. lit or bibl* (of a person or their behaviour) (doing what is) morally good and just: *a righteous man* [also *n, the*+P] *The righteous shall go to Heaven.* | *"I never drink or smoke," he said in a righteous tone.* –see also SELF-RIGHTEOUS **2** (of feelings) morally blameless; having just cause: *righteous indignation* – **~ly** *adv* – **~ness** *n* [U]

right field /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** (in BASEBALL) the area of the playing field outside the DIAMOND and to the right **2** the position of the player (the **rightfielder**) who plays in this area

right·ful /ˈraɪtfəl/ *adj* [A] *fml* in accordance with what is just or legally correct: *He regained his rightful place on the English throne.* (=as king of England) | *Who is the rightful owner of this car?* –~**ly** *adv*: *The legacy is rightfully yours; she always intended you to have it.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

right-hand /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] **1** on or to the right side: *the right-hand page* **2** of, for, with, or done by the right hand: *a right-hand stroke* **3** turning or going to the right: *a right-hand bend* | *Take the right-hand lane.* –opposite **left-hand**

right-hand-drive /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of a car) having the driver's wheel and foot controls on the right-hand side, being intended for driving on the left-hand side of the road

right-hand·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* **1** using the right hand for most actions rather than the left: *a right-handed tennis player* **2** made for use by a right-handed person: *right-handed scissors* –opposite **left-handed** –~**ness** *n* [U]

right-hand·er /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** a hit or stroke given with the right hand **2** ‖ also **righty** *AmE infml*– someone who usu. uses their right hand for most actions rather than their left –opposite **left-hander**

right-hand man /ˌ· · ˈ·/ also **right-hand**– *n* one's most useful and valuable helper

Right Hon·our·a·ble /ˈ· ˌ····/ *adj* (in Britain, a title of respect used when mentioning important government ministers or certain lords): *the Right Honourable Edward Heath, M.P.* | *my Right Honourable friend, the Member for Croydon South*

right·ist /ˈraɪtɪst/ *n, adj* (*often cap.*) *sometimes derog* (a supporter) of the RIGHT[2] (2) in politics: *a rightist government* –opposite **leftist**

right·ly /ˈraɪtli/ *adv* **1** [*no comp.*] correctly, truly, or with good reason: *If I am rightly informed …* | *He believed,* **rightly or wrongly,** *that she was guilty.* | *They argue, quite rightly, that this measure will do nothing to solve the problem.* **2** justly: *He was punished, and (very|quite) rightly so.* **3** [*usu. in negatives*] *infml* for certain; without any doubt: *I* **can't rightly say|don't rightly know** *whether it was Tuesday or Wednesday.*

right-mind·ed /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ also **right-thinking**– *adj* [A] having correct and acceptable opinions, principles, or standards of behaviour: *All right-minded people will support this change in the law.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

right of ap·peal /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ *n* **rights of appeal** the legal right to ask for a court's decision to be re-examined

right-of-centre , right of centre /ˌ· · ˈ··◂/ *adj* to the CONSERVATIVE[1] (1) (right) side of political thinking, but not very far –compare LEFT-OF-CENTRE

right of way /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* **rights of way** **1** [(*the*) U] the right of traffic to drive, cross, pass, etc., before other vehicles: *It's our right of way at this road junction.* (=we can go first) **2** [C] **a** a right to follow a path across a piece of private land: *We have a right of way across his field to our house.* **b** a path over which someone holds this right: *a public right of way through the forest*

Right Rev·e·rend /ˈ· ˌ···/ *adj* (used as a title of respect when mentioning a BISHOP)

rights /raɪts/ *n* [P] **1** the political, social, and other advantages to which someone has a just claim, morally or legally: *The suffragettes led the fight for women's rights.* | *a prisoners' rights campaign* **2 by rights** if things were done properly or correctly: *I shouldn't by rights be at this party at all – I'm on duty tonight!* **3 set/put someone/something to rights** to bring someone/something (back) to a healthy, correct, or satisfactory condition: *This medicine will soon put you to rights.* | *We need a new leader to set the country to rights again.* **4 the rights and wrongs of** the true facts about: *We are determined to find out the rights and wrongs of this matter.* –see also BILL OF RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS

rights is·sue /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n tech* an offer by a company to sell shares at a favourable price to those people who already hold shares in it

right-think·ing /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* RIGHT-MINDED

right to life /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* the right to live, esp. the right of an unborn child to be born. This phrase is used by people who are opposed to ABORTION.

right-to-lif·er /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a person who supports the idea of the unborn child's right to be born, and is opposed to ABORTION

right tri·an·gle /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n AmE for* a RIGHT-ANGLED TRIANGLE

right·ward /ˈraɪtwəd‖-wərd/ *adj* on or towards the right – opposite **leftward**

right·wards /ˈraɪtwədz‖-wərdz-/ *esp. BrE*‖usu. **rightward** *AmE*– *adv* on or towards the right –opposite **leftwards**

right wing /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *n, adj* [*the*] **1** [+*sing./pl. v*] (the members) of a group or political party that favour either fewer political changes or less state control, and who are usu. rather NATIONALISTIC: *He is on the right wing of his party.* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] (of) the RIGHT[2] (2): *right-wing ideas|newspapers* | *She's very right-wing.* **3** (on) the right-hand side of the field in games such as football: *He centred the ball from the right wing.* –opposite **left wing** –**right-winger** *n*

ri·gid /ˈrɪdʒɪd/ *adj* **1** stiff; not easy to bend: *a tent supported on a rigid framework* | *She was rigid with fear.* **2** *often derog* firm or fixed in behaviour, views, or methods; difficult to change or unwilling to change: *He's very rigid in his ideas.* | *the rigid discipline of army life* | *rigid distinctions between social classes* | *rigid adherence to the regulations* –~**ly** *adv*: *rigidly opposed to all new ideas* | *rigidly orthodox* –~**ity** /rɪˈdʒɪdɪti/ *n* [U]

rig·ma·role /ˈrɪgmərəʊl/ ‖ also **rigamarole** *AmE*– *n infml derog* **1** [U] a long, confusing, and often meaningless set of actions: *I had to go through the whole rigmarole of swearing in front of the judge and kissing the Bible.* **2** [S;U] a long confused story without much meaning: *She told me some rigmarole or other about having lost her keys.*

rig·or mor·tis /ˌrɪgə ˈmɔːtɪs, ˌraɪgɔː-‖ˌrɪgər ˈmɔːr-/ *n* [U] *Lat* the stiffening of the muscles after death: *Bury him before* **rigor mortis sets in.** (=before his body becomes stiff)

rig·or·ous /ˈrɪgərəs/ *adj* **1** *often apprec* careful, thorough, and exact: *The planes have to undergo rigorous safety checks.* **2** severe; painful: *the rigorous hardships of the journey* –~**ly** *adv*

rig·our *BrE*‖**-or** *AmE* /ˈrɪgəʳ/ *n* [U] **1** firmness or severity; lack of pity: *He deserves to be punished* **with the full rigour of the law.** **2** also **rigours** *pl.*– severe conditions: *The expedition suffered all the rigour(s) of a Canadian winter.* **3** *often apprec* (in a subject of study) exactness that demands clear thinking: *the rigour of a scientific proof*

rig-out /ˈ· ·/ *n BrE infml, often derog* a set of clothes of a particular, esp. unusual, type: *You can't go to the party in that rig-out!* –see also RIG **out**

Rig-Ve·da /ˌrɪg ˈveɪdə/ [*the*] the first of the four holy books of the VEDA, which contains prayers and HYMNS to gods in the Hindu religion

rile /raɪl/ *v* [T] *infml* to annoy; make very angry: *His patronizing manner really riles me.* –see ANNOY (USAGE)

Ri·ley /ˈraɪli/ *n* see **lead the life of Riley** (LEAD[1] (13))

Ril·ke /ˈrɪlkə/, **Rai·ner Ma·ri·a** /ˈraɪnəʳ məˈriːə/ (1875–1926) a German writer, born in Prague, known for his poetry including *Sonnets to Orpheus*

rill /rɪl/ *n poet* a small stream

rim[1] /rɪm/ *n* **1** the outside edge or border of esp. a round or circular object: *the rim of a cup* | *You fit the tyre round the rim of the wheel.* | *military bases on the rim of the Pacific* **2 -rimmed** /rɪmd/having a rim or rims of the stated type or material –see also HORN-RIMMED –~**less** *adj*: *She wore rimless glasses.*

rim[2] *v* **-mm-** [T] to be round the edge of (esp. something round or circular): *Trees rimmed the pool.*

Rim·baud /ˈræmbəʊ‖ræmˈbəʊ/, **Arthur** (1854–91) a French poet known for dream-like poetry including *Les Illuminations*

rime /raɪm/ *n* [U] *lit* white FROST[1] (1)

Rime of the Ancient Mariner see ANCIENT MARINER

Rim·i·ni /ˈrɪmɪni/ a city on the Adriatic coast of Italy. It is a market town and tourist centre.

Rim·sky-Kor·sa·kov /ˌrɪmskiˈkɔːsəkɒf‖-ˈkɔːrsəkɔːf/, **Nik·o·lai An·drey·e·vich** /ˈnɪkəlaɪ ænˈdreɪəvɪtʃ/ (1844–1908) a Russian COMPOSER who used the RHYTHMS of Russian FOLK SONGS in his music. His works include *The Snow Maiden* and *Scheherazade.*

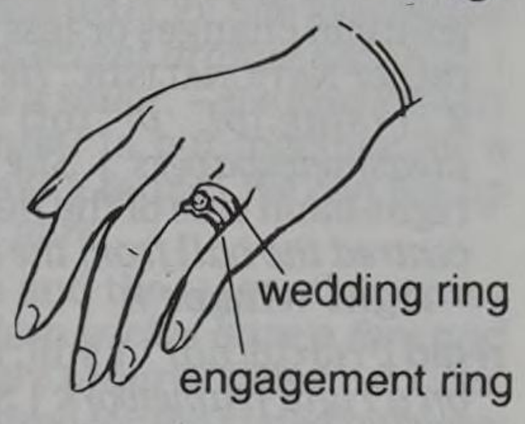
rind /raɪnd/ *n* [C;U] **1** (a piece of) the thick rather hard

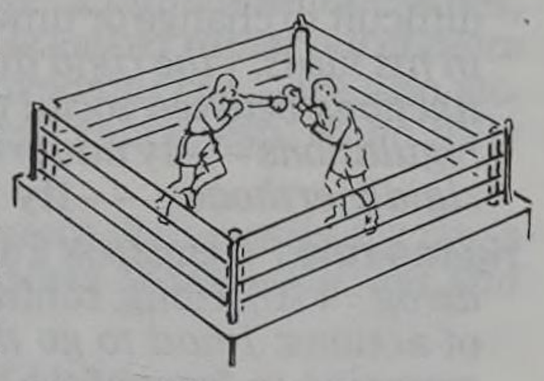
outer covering of certain fruits, esp. of the MELON and LEMON: *grated lemon rind* —compare PEEL[2] **2** (a piece of) the thick outer skin of certain foods: *cheese rind | bacon rind*

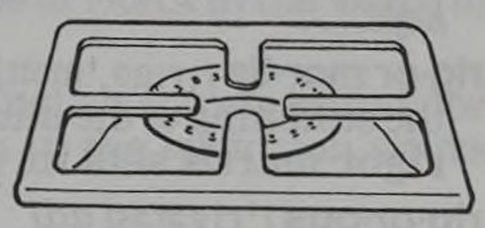
▷ USAGE Although the skin of the orange is of this type, it is called "peel". In the US, the skin of the lemon is also often called "peel".◁

rind·less /ˈraɪndləs/ *adj* (of BACON) having the rind removed

ring[1] /rɪŋ/ *n* **1** [C] a small circular piece of metal, esp. gold or silver, that is worn on the finger as an ITEM of jewellery, or to show that a person is ENGAGED or married: *a gold ring | a diamond ring* (=decorated with one or more diamonds) —see also ENGAGEMENT RING, WEDDING RING **2** [C] a circular band or shape, esp. of the stated substance or for the stated purpose: *He puffed at his pipe and blew smoke rings into the air. | The little girl was supported in the water by an inflatable rubber ring. | the rings of the planet Saturn | a bull with a metal ring through its nose | Rings are put round birds' legs to identify them.* —see also KEY RING **3** [C] a circular line, mark, or arrangement: *There was a ring of troops round the building. | They danced around in a ring. | You can tell how old a tree is by cutting it across and counting the rings inside. |* (fig.) *You must have been having too many late nights – you've got rings round your eyes.* (=dark marks from too little sleep) **4** [C] *esp. BrE* a circular arrangement of metal that can be heated up by gas or electricity to cook things on: *a gas ring* —see picture at KITCHEN **5** [*the*] an enclosed usu. circular central space in a CIRCUS where the performances take place —see also RINGMASTER **6** [*the*+S] the small square space closed in with ropes in which people BOX or WRESTLE: *The challenger climbed into the ring. | He retired from the ring* (=from BOXING) *at 34.* **7** [C] a group of people who work together, often dishonestly in business or crime for their own advantage: *a drug ring|spy ring | The auctioneers organized a secret ring to control the sales.* **8 make/run rings round someone** to do things much better and faster than someone **9 with rings on her fingers and bells on her toes** a line from a NURSERY RHYME (=an old song or poem for children) —see RIDE A COCK-HORSE **10 with this ring, I thee wed** a phrase from the Christian marriage service, said at the point where the man gives the woman (and sometimes the woman gives the man) a wedding ring —see also **throw one's hat into the ring** (THROW[1] (22))




boxing ring


gas ring

ring[2] *v* [T (**with**)] **1** to make, form, or put a ring round; ENCIRCLE: *Police ringed the building. | The old house was ringed (about) with trees. | Ring the spelling mistakes with red ink.* **2** to put a ring round the leg of (a bird)

ring[3] *v* **rang** /ræŋ/, **rung** /rʌŋ/ **1** [T (**for**)] to cause (a bell) to sound: *The cyclist rang his bell loudly. | I rang the doorbell but no one answered.* **2** [I (**at, for**)] to ring a bell as a sign that one wants something: *She rang for service|for a drink.* **3** [I] (of a bell, telephone, etc.) to sound: *The telephone's ringing. | The bell rang loudly.* **4** [I;T (UP)] *esp. BrE* ‖ call *esp. AmE*– to telephone (someone): *I'm expecting my mother to ring. | I think we should ring for an ambulance.* (=call one by telephoning) | *Please ring the doctor. | I'll ring you (up) tomorrow. | I tried to ring you but you weren't in.* —see TELEPHONE (USAGE) **5** [I] to make a continuous high or loud hollow sound: *The glass should ring if you hit it gently.* | (fig.) *His cruel laughter* **rang in my ears.** **6** [I (**with, to**)] to be filled with this sort of sound: *The courtyard rang with|to their shouts. | The crash really made my ears ring.* **7 ring a bell** *infml* to remind one of something: *Her name rings a bell but I can't remember whether I've ever met her.* **8 ring hollow** to sound untrue or insincere: *I knew he didn't really care, so his words of sympathy rang hollow.* **9 ring the changes (on)** to introduce variety (esp. in something where there is a limited range of possibilities) **10 ring the curtain up/down** to start/end a play by signalling for the theatre curtain to go up/down **11 ring true/false** to sound true/untrue: *It was a clever excuse but it didn't really ring true.*

ring (sbdy. ↔) **back** *phr v* [I;T] *esp. BrE* to telephone again, esp. after a first unsuccessful attempt: *I told him you weren't in, so he said he'd ring (you) back later.*

ring in *phr v* **1** [I] *esp. BrE* to make a telephone call to a place, such as one's office, a radio station, etc.: *Jane has rung in to say she'll be late today.* **2** [T] (=**ring** sthg. ↔ **in**) to mark the beginning of (the New Year) by ringing church bells —compare RING **out** (2)

ring off *phr v* [I] *esp. BrE* to end a telephone conversation: *I'd better ring off now – the baby's crying.*

ring out *phr v* **1** [I] (of a voice, bell, etc.) to sound loudly and clearly: *The word of command rang out.* **2** [T] (=**ring** sthg. ↔ **out**) to mark the end of (the old year) by ringing church bells —compare RING **in** (2)

ring round (sbdy.) *phr v* [I;T] *esp. BrE* to make telephone calls to (a number of people): *She rang round to tell all her friends the news|rang round all her friends to tell them the news.*

ring sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to record (money paid) on a CASH REGISTER: *The cashier rang up £20 instead of 20p by mistake.* —see also RING[3] (4)

ring[4] *n* **1** [C (**of**)] (an act of making) the sound of a bell or a bell-like sound: *He gave several loud rings at the door. | the ring of church bells* **2** [S (**of**)] a certain quality, esp. in something said: *Her story had* **the ring of truth** *about it.* (=sounded true) | *His excuse had* **a familiar ring.** (=I had heard it before) **3 have a ring of confidence** appearing to have a calm unworried manner or strong belief in one's abilities: *Tommy's ring of confidence. School caretaker Tommy Joyce knows how to deal with bullies – he puts on boxing gloves and teaches victims how to fight back.* **4** [S] *infml, esp. BrE* a telephone call: *I'll* **give you a ring** *tonight.* —see TELEPHONE (USAGE)

Ring also **Ring of the Ni·be·lung·en** /ˌrɪŋ əv ðə ˈniːbəlʊŋən/, **Ring Cy·cle** /ˈ· ˌ··/– [*the*] four OPERAS by Richard Wagner based on German MYTHOLOGY

Ring a ring o'ros·es /ˌ· · ˌ· · ˈ··/ *n* a children's singing game in which the children join hands and dance round in a circle singing:

Ring a ring o' roses
A pocket full of posies
A-tishoo! A-tishoo!
We all fall down

Ring-a-round-the-ros·y /ˌ· ·ˌ· · ˈ··/ an American children's singing game:

Ring-around-the-rosy,
Pocket full of posy,
Ashes, Ashes,
All fall down

ring bind·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a notebook whose loose pages are held in position by metal rings fastened to a firm back

ring·er /ˈrɪŋəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who rings bells, esp. in a church **2** *AmE* a person who enters a sports competition against the rules —see also DEAD RINGER

ring fin·ger /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* the third finger of the left hand (or, in some parts of the world, the right hand), on which a WEDDING RING is usually worn —see picture at HAND

ringing /ˈrɪŋɪŋ/ *adj* emotional, definite and expressed openly: *He praised her in ringing tones. | a ringing condemnation of human rights abuses*

ring·lead·er /ˈrɪŋˌliːdəʳ/ *n* a person who leads others to do wrong or make trouble: *Police arrested the ringleaders, but let the rest go free.*

ring·let /ˈrɪŋlɨt/ *n* a long hanging curl of hair: *a pretty child with golden ringlets*

ring·mas·ter /ˈrɪŋˌmɑːstəʳ‖-ˌmæ-/ *n* a person, esp. a man, whose job is directing performances in a CIRCUS

ring-pull /ˈ· ·/ *n* a ring on a tin of drink which is pulled to open it: *It comes in a ring-pull can.*

ring road /ˈ· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **beltway** *AmE*– *n* a road that goes round the edge of a large town so that traffic does not have to pass through the centre

ring·side /ˈrɪŋsaɪd/ *adj, n* [*the*] (at) the edge of a RING¹ (5,6): *We had* **ringside seats**/*seats by the ringside for the big fight, and saw it all.*

ring span·ner /ˈ· ˌ··/ *BrE* ‖ **box end wrench** *AmE*– *n* a type of SPANNER with a hollow end that fits over the NUT to be screwed or unscrewed –see picture at TOOL

ring·way /ˈrɪŋweɪ/ *n* (a name for) a main road which goes round a town rather than through it

ring·worm /ˈrɪŋwɜːm‖-wɜːrm/ *n* [U] a skin disease passed on by touch, causing red rings often on the head

rink /rɪŋk/ *n* a specially prepared surface of **a** ice, for skating (SKATE) **b** any hard material, for using ROLLER SKATES

rin·ky-dink /ˈrɪŋki dɪŋk/ *adj AmE sl* small, worn, and without much to interest one

rinse¹ /rɪns/ *v* [T] **1** [(OUT)] to clean using fresh water, esp. to put (clothes or hair) in clean water in order to remove soap after washing: *I'll just rinse (out) these shirts. | Rinse your mouth (out) with this mouthwash.* **2** [+*adv*/*prep*, esp. OUT] to remove (soap, dirt, etc.) from something by rinsing: *Rinse the soap out of these shirts*/*out of your hair.* | *She rinsed out the sea water from her swimming-costume.*

rinse² *n* **1** [C] an act of rinsing: *Give the shirts at least three rinses.* **2** [C;U] (a) pale liquid for colouring the hair: *a (bottle of) blue rinse for grey hair*

rinse aid /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] a liquid put into a dishwasher to stop the rinsing water leaving marks on the plates, etc.

rinse hold /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a washing machine control which prevents clothes from becoming creased (CREASE) by leaving them in water until the user is ready to take them out

Ri·o de Ja·nei·ro /ˌriːəʊ də ʒəˈnɪərəʊ‖-deɪ ʒəˈneərəʊ/ a port and former capital of Brazil, also known as **Rio**. It is famous for its beaches (BEACH) such as the COPACABANA, and the SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN. The Earth Summit was held there in 1992.

Ri·o Grande /ˌriːəʊ ˈgrænd/ [*the*] a river in the south of the US which forms a border between the US and Mexico. The Mexican name for it is **Rio Bravo**. –see colour map on pages 1374–5

ri·ot¹ /ˈraɪət/ *n* **1** [C] a scene of noisy, uncontrolled, often violent behaviour by a large disorderly crowd of people: *The sudden increase in the price of bread led to riots in the streets. | The army had to be called in to put down the riot. | The* **riot police** *used teargas to control the mob.* **2** [S] *infml* a very funny and successful occasion or person: *You should go and see the new show – it's a riot.* **3** [S+**of**] a bright and splendid show: *The garden is a* **riot of colour** *in summer.* **4 run riot: a** to become violent and uncontrollable: *The football supporters ran riot through the town after their team lost the match.* **b** (of a plant) to grow thickly and uncontrollably

riot² *v* [I] to take part in a riot: *crowds rioting in the streets* –~**er** *n*

riot act /ˈ·· ·/ *n* **read the riot act** *usu. humor* to severely warn (a person or group) to stop making trouble: *If the children don't quieten down and go to sleep, I'll go upstairs and read (them) the riot act.*

ri·ot·ous /ˈraɪətəs/ *adj* **1** (of people or behaviour) wild, uncontrolled, and disorderly: *a riotous crowd | They were charged with* **riotous assembly.** (=taking part in a riot) | *riotous laughter* **2** (of an occasion) noisy and exciting: *They spent a riotous night drinking and singing.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

rip¹ /rɪp/ *v* **-pp-** [I;T] **1** to tear or be torn quickly and violently: *The sail ripped under the force of the wind. | I ripped my tights on a nail. | Impatiently, he ripped the letter open. | The cat's* **ripped** *the cushion cover* **to pieces/into shreds.** | (fig.) *He ripped my argument to pieces.* –see also RIPPER **2 let something rip** *infml* to let something start or continue without any controls or limits: *OK, driver – open the throttle and really let her rip!*

rip sbdy./sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** *infml derog* to charge too much: *They really ripped us off at that hotel!* **2** *sl* to steal: *Someone's ripped off my new bicycle!* –see also RIP-OFF

rip sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] to tear violently into pieces: *She ripped the letter up angrily.*

rip into sbdy. *phr v* [T] to angrily attack someone with words or physically: *He really ripped into Sue for not showing up when she was supposed to.*

rip² *n* a long tear or cut: *There was a rip in the tyre caused by a sharp stone.*

RIP /ˌɑːr aɪ ˈpiː/ *abbrev. for:* rest in peace (=words written on gravestones)

rip·cord /ˈrɪpkɔːd‖-kɔːrd/ *n* **1** the cord that one pulls to open a PARACHUTE after jumping from an aircraft **2** the cord that one pulls to let gas out of a BALLOON (1)

ripe /raɪp/ *adj* **1** (esp. of fruit and crops) fully grown and ready to be eaten: *These apples aren't ripe; they'll give you indigestion. | a field of ripe corn | a ripe old Stilton cheese |* (fig.) *her ripe red lips*–opposite **unripe** **2** [F (**for**)] in a suitable condition (for something, esp. a change or new development): *This land is ripe for industrial development. | The* **time was ripe** *for a challenge to the power of the government.* **3** *old-fash infml* shocking in an amusing way: *That joke was rather ripe.* **4 a ripe old age** a very great age: *He lived to a ripe old age.* | (*humor*) *She first appeared on stage at the ripe old age of six.* –~**ness** *n* [U]

rip·en /ˈraɪpən/ *v* [I;T] to become or make ripe: *The corn ripens in the sun. | The sun ripens the corn.*

rip-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** *infml derog* an act of charging too much: *They charged you £5 for a coffee? What a rip-off!* **2** *sl* an act of stealing –see also RIP **off**

Rip·on /ˈrɪpən/ a market town in N Yorkshire, England, which is famous esp. for its CATHEDRAL

ri·poste¹ /rɪˈpɒst, rɪˈpəʊst‖rɪˈpəʊst/ *n* **1** a quick, clever, and often unfriendly reply; RETORT **2** (in FENCING) a quick return stroke with a sword

riposte² *v* **1** [I;T] to reply as a RIPOSTE¹ (1) **2** [I] to make a RIPOSTE¹ (2)

Rip·per /ˈrɪpəʳ/ [*the*] a name given to a person (usu. a man) who kills several times in a very unpleasant way which shocks and worries the public. The name is usu. given by the TABLOID newspapers as the killer becomes famous and the police search for him. –see also JACK THE RIPPER, YORKSHIRE RIPPER

rip·ple¹ /ˈrɪpəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move in small waves: *The lake rippled gently. | The wind rippled the surface of the cornfield. |* (fig.) *Laughter rippled through the audience.* **2** [T] to form RIPPLES² (2) on: *the rippled surface of the sand* **3** [I] to make a sound like gently running water: *a rippling stream | The water rippled over the stones.*

ripple² *n* **1** [C] a very small wave or gentle waving movement: *The light wind caused ripples to appear on the pool.* | (fig.) *There was a* **ripple of applause.** | (fig.) *A ripple of excitement ran through the crowd as the princess approached.* **2** [C] a wavelike mark: *The sea leaves ripples on the sand.* **3** [S (**of**)] a sound of or like gently running water: *I heard the ripple of the stream.* **4** [U] a type of ice cream with bands of white VANILLA ice cream and another type of usu. coloured ice cream: *raspberry ripple | strawberry ripple*

Rip·pon /ˈrɪpən/, **An·ge·la** /ˈændʒ ə lə/ (1944–) an English reader of the news on television who now works mostly on the radio. She is famous for being one of the first women to read the television news.

rip-roar·ing /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj infml* noisy, exciting, and uncontrolled: *a rip-roaring party | They had a rip-roaring time spending all their wages in one night. | The new play was a rip-roaring* (=very great) *success.*

rip·saw /ˈrɪpsɔː/ *n* a large-toothed SAW that cuts wood along the direction of growth (GRAIN (4))

rip·snort·er /ˌrɪpˈsnɔːtəʳ‖-ɔːr-/ *n AmE old fash sl* something which is very exciting: *The roller coasters there are real ripsnorters.*

rip·tide /ˈrɪptaɪd/ *n* a TIDE (=regular rise and fall of the sea) that makes rough water and currents

Rip van Win·kle /ˌ· · ˈ··/ a person who is completely UNAWARE of new ideas and fashions (from a character in a story by Washington Irving, who slept for 20 years and found the world very changed when he woke up)

rise¹ /raɪz/ *v* **rose** /rəʊz/, **risen** /ˈrɪzən/ [I] **1** to move from a lower to a higher level or position; go up; get higher: *Smoke rose from the factory chimneys. | The river is rising after the rain. | Their voices rose higher and higher with excitement. | The price of bread has risen sharply/has risen by 15%. | The road rises steeply from the village. | The house was built on rising ground. | She eventually*

rose to an important position in the firm. | *He rose from captain to colonel in five years.* | *My spirits rose* (=I became happier) *when I heard the news.* | *Tension in the region is rising.* (=increasing) | *rising prices|unemployment* —opposite **fall;** see also RISING[2] **2** (of the sun, moon, or stars) to come up; appear above the horizon: *The sun rises in the east.* —opposite **set** **3** [*+adv|prep; not in progressive forms*] to show above the surroundings: *The trees rose above the roof-tops.* **4** [(UP)] also **arise** *fml*— to stand up from a lying, kneeling, or sitting position: *He rose from his knees.* | *She rose to greet her guests.* **5** *fml* to get out of bed; get up: *She rises before it is light.* — compare RETIRE (3) **6** *fml* (of a group of people) to formally end a meeting: *The court will rise at 4.30.* **7** (of wind or storms) to get stronger **8** [(UP, **against**)] to begin to be active in opposition; REBEL: *The people rose up against their cruel oppressors.* —see also RISING[1] **9** *lit or bibl* to come back to life after being dead: *According to the Bible, Jesus rose|rose again|***rose from the dead** *on the third day after his death.* **10** [*+adv|prep; not in progressive forms*] (esp. of a river) to come into being; begin; have origin: *The River Rhine rises in Switzerland.* | *The quarrel rose from|out of a misunderstanding.* **11** (of fish) to come up to the surface of water: *The fish are rising; perhaps we'll catch one.* | (fig.) *He made some stupid remarks about women drivers, but she didn't* **rise to the bait.** (=she refused to become angry) **12** (of uncooked bread) to swell as the YEAST works **13 rise to the occasion** to show that one can deal with a difficult situation when it happens: *When the guest speaker failed to arrive, the chairman rose to the occasion and made a very amusing speech himself.*

▷ USAGE Compare **rise** and **raise**. If you **raise** [T] something you lift it to a higher position: *We* **raised** *the ship from the seabed.* If you yourself move to a higher position you **rise** [I]: *I* **rose** *from my seat.* If more effort is needed you **raise** yourself: *He* **raised** *himself from the ground.*◁

rise above sthg. *phr v* [T *no pass.*] to deal successfully with (a problem, disadvantage, etc.); OVERCOME: *to rise above one's misfortunes.*

rise[2] *n* **1** [C (**in**)] an increase in quantity, price, demand, etc.: *There's been a sharp rise in the cost of living.* | *The rise in her temperature is giving cause for concern.* | *a 25% rise in the price of oil* —opposite **fall** **2** [U] the act of growing more powerful, more active, or more widespread; development: *the rise and fall of the Roman Empire* | *The rise of computer technology has transformed industry.* **3** [C] an upward slope: *There's a slight rise in the road just before our house.* | *We sat at the top of a small rise.* **4** [C] *BrE* ‖ **raise** *AmE*— an increase in wages: *We all got a £6-a-week (pay) rise last month.* **5 get|take a rise out of someone** *infml* to intentionally make someone show annoyance: *You can always get a rise out of John by making jokes about his hair.* **6 give rise to** to be the cause of; lead to (something bad or undesirable): *Unhygienic conditions give rise to disease.*

▷ USAGE Note the fixed phrase **rise and fall**: *The* **rise and fall** *of the temperature during the day.*◁

ris·er /ˈraɪzəʳ/ *n* **1** a person who gets out of bed at the stated time in the morning: *She's an* **early|late riser.** **2** the upright part of a step, between two TREADS (=flat parts)

ris·ers /ˈraɪzəz‖-ərz/ *n* [U] a temporary set of steps which people can stand on so that each row is standing higher than the next: *The choir mounted the risers quietly.*

ris·i·ble /ˈrɪzəbəl/ *adj fml, usu. derog* causing laughter or deserving to be laughed at: *His suggestion was so stupid as to be risible.* —**-bility** /ˌrɪzəˈbɪləti/ *n* [U]

ris·ing[1] /ˈraɪzɪŋ/ also **uprising**— *n* an occasion of sudden violent opposition to a government or ruler

rising[2] *adj* moving to a position of greater importance, fame, etc.: *the rising generation* | *a rising tennis star* | *a rising young politician*

rising[3] *prep esp. BrE* nearly (the stated age): *My daughter is rising seven.*

rising damp /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] water that comes up from the ground into the walls of a building

rising fives /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] in Britain, children who will soon be five years old, the age by which they must start school. Sometimes INFANT SCHOOLS take children when they are rising fives.

risk[1] /rɪsk/ *n* **1** [C;U (**of**)] (a) danger; (a) possibility that something harmful or undesirable may happen: *The firemen wouldn't allow anyone back into the building because there was a risk|some risk of the fire breaking out again.* [*+(that)*] *There was a risk that the fire would break out again.* | *Fishermen face a lot of risks in their daily lives.* | *Are you insured against all risks?* | *This window is a security risk; you should have a lock put on it.* | *The disease is spreading, and all young children are* **at risk.** (=in danger) | *You have to* **take|run** *a lot of* **risks** *if you want to succeed in business.* | *I don't want to* **run the risk of** (=take the chance of) *meeting George, so I'll stay here.* | **At the risk of** *seeming rude* (=even if this seems rude), *I must admit that I don't really like the painting.* | *a high-risk investment* (=with a high danger of loss) **2** [C] (in insurance) a person or thing that has the stated likelihood of making the insurance company pay a claim: *Because of his high blood pressure, he's not a very good risk for life insurance.* **3 at one's own risk** agreeing to accept any loss or danger: *"Anyone swimming in this lake does so at his own risk."* (notice)

risk[2] *v* [T] **1** to put in danger; take the chance of losing: *You're risking your health by smoking.* | *She risked her life trying to save the drowning child.* **2** to take the chance of (a possible unpleasant result): *They will be risking a serious defeat if they hold an election now.* | *He realized that the police might find out but decided to risk it.* [*+ v-ing*] *By criticizing the boss he risked losing his job.* **3** [*+obj|v-ing*] to take (an action that may lead to danger or loss) in the hope that things will go well: *In the present circumstances they are unlikely to risk an election|risk holding an election.* (=because they may lose it) **4 risk one's neck** to endanger one's life

risk·y /ˈrɪski/ *adj* (esp. of an action) having a high degree of risk; rather dangerous: *You drove too fast round that corner — it was a risky thing to do.* | *a risky journey|operation|business investment* —**-ily** *adv* —**-iness** *n* [U]

ri·sot·to /rɪˈzɒtəʊ‖-ˈsɔː-/ *n* **-tos** [C;U] a dish made of rice cooked with cheese, onions, chicken, etc.

ris·qué /ˈrɪskeɪ‖rɪˈskeɪ/ *adj* (of a joke, story, etc.) slightly rude and shocking, esp. because concerned with sex

ris·sole /ˈrɪsəʊl/ *n* a small round flat mass of cut-up meat cooked in hot fat

rite /raɪt/ *n* [*usu. pl.*] a ceremonial act with a fixed pattern, usu. for a religious purpose: *funeral rites* | *The priest performed the* **last rites** *over the dying woman.* | *Anthropologists have described* **rites of passage** (=ceremonies marking a new stage in one's life) *practised by certain societies.* | *Satanic rites*

rit·u·al[1] /ˈrɪtʃuəl/ *adj* [A] done as (part of) a rite or ritual: *ritual dances* | *ritual murder* — **~ly** *adv* : *ritually killed*

ritual[2] *n* [C;U] one or more ceremonies or customary acts which are often repeated in the same form: *Christian ritual(s)* (=the form of church services) | (fig., *humor*) *She went through her usual ritual of making sure all the doors were locked before she went to bed.*

rit·u·al·is·m /ˈrɪtʃuəlɪzəm/ *n* [U] *often derog* great interest in or obedience to ritual —**-istic** /ˌrɪtʃuəˈlɪstɪk◂/ *adj* —**-istically** /kli/ *adv*

ritz /rɪts/ *n AmE infml* **put on the ritz** to show that one is wealthy by living in a large house, giving parties, etc.: *He really puts on the ritz to try to impress people.*

Ritz [*the*] one of an international group of expensive hotels: *We stay at the Ritz wherever we can.*

ritz·y /ˈrɪtsi/ *adj infml apprec* fashionable and expensive; GLAMOROUS (from the **Ritz** hotel chain, which is very comfortable and expensive, esp. **The Ritz** in London)

ri·val[1] /ˈraɪvəl/ *n* [(**for, in**)] a person, group, or organization with whom one competes: *Who will be his main rival in the presidential election?* | *Bob and I were friendly rivals for the job|rivals in love.* | *These two companies are* **arch-rivals** (=very great rivals) *in the computer industry.* | *She left her job and went to work for a rival company.* | *a clash between rival football supporters*

rival[2] *v* **-ll-** *BrE* ‖ **-l-** *AmE* [T] to equal; be as good as or reach the same standard as: *Ships can't rival aircraft for speed.* | *As a tourist centre, it rivals anywhere in Europe.* —see also UNRIVALLED

ri·val·ry /ˈraɪvəlri/ *n* [C;U (**with, between**)] competition; (a case of) being rivals: *There was a friendly rivalry between the two women.* | *There was fierce|intense rivalry*

between the two companies to get the contract.

Ri·vals /ˈraɪvəlz/, **The** a play by Richard Sheridan, in which the character Mrs Malaprop appears —see also Mrs MALAPROP

riv·en /ˈrɪvən/ *adj* [F] *fml* split violently apart: *The whole community was riven by the strike, which some men had joined and others had not.*

riv·er /ˈrɪvəʳ/ *n* **1** a wide natural stream of water flowing between banks into a lake, into another wider stream, or into the sea: *Let's go swimming in the river|sailing on the river.* | *the river Amazon* | *the Mississippi River* | *a river steamer* | *a river delta* | *the mouth of a river* | *sail up|down the river* | (fig.) *Rivers of blood flowed during the war.* —compare STREAM[1] (1); see also **sell someone down the river** (SELL[1]) **2 rivers of blood** *quote* a phrase used by the British politician Enoch Powell in a speech saying that Britain should not allow IMMIGRANTS to enter the country. He said that if too many black people were allowed in, there would be fighting and "rivers of blood" in the streets of Britain. —see also Enoch POWELL

river ba·sin /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* an area from which all the water flows into the same river

riv·er·bed /ˈrɪvəbed‖-ər-/ *n* the ground over which a river flows between its banks

Riv·ers /ˈrɪvəz‖-vərz/, **Joan** /dʒəʊn/ (1933–) an American COMEDIENNE (=a woman who makes people laugh) and writer, known esp. for making rude jokes about sex and important people

Joan Rivers



riv·er·side /ˈrɪvəsaɪd‖-ər-/ *n* [*the*] the land on or near the banks of a river: *Let's go for a picnic by the riverside.* | *an old riverside inn*

riv·et[1] /ˈrɪvɨt/ *n* a metal pin used for fastening metal plates together by putting it through a hole in the plates and then hammering one end flat, so that it spreads and holds firmly

rivet[2] *v* [T] **1** to fasten with rivets: *The metal plates used in making ships used to be riveted together, but now they're usually welded.* | (fig.) *I stood* **riveted to the spot** (=unable to move) *as the lions escaped from the cage and charged towards me.* **2** to attract and hold (someone's attention) strongly: *My attention was riveted by a slight movement in the bushes; could it be the murderer?*

rivet sthg. **on** sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T *often pass.*] to fix (eyes or attention) firmly on: *He riveted his eyes on her.* | *Public attention was riveted on the nuclear accident.*

riv·et·er /ˈrɪvɨtəʳ/ *n* a person whose job is fastening rivets —see also ROSIE THE RIVETER

riv·et·ing /ˈrɪvɨtɪŋ/ *adj apprec* very interesting and exciting; holding one's attention: *This is an absolutely riveting book; I can hardly put it down!*

ri·vi·e·ra /ˌrɪviˈeərə/ *n* [*the*] **1** a warm stretch of coast that is popular with holidaymakers: *the Cornish Riviera* **2 the (French) Riviera** the Mediterranean coast of France and Italy including Nice, Cannes, St Tropez, the Côte d'Azur, and Monaco. People think of the Riviera as being fashionable and expensive, and a place where rich and famous people go. —see also SOUTH OF FRANCE

riv·u·let /ˈrɪvjʊlɨt/ *n lit* a very small stream: (fig.) *rivulets of sweat*

Riy·adh /ˈriːæd/ the capital city of Saudi Arabia

ri·yal , rial /riˈɑːl‖riˈɔːl, -ˈɑːl/ *n* a unit of money in Saudi Arabia and certain other Arab countries

RN /ˌɑːr ˈen/ *abbrev. for:* **1** Royal Navy; the British navy: *Captain Anstruther, RN* **2** REGISTERED NURSE

RNA /ˌɑːr en ˈeɪ/ *n* [U] ribonucleic acid; an important chemical found in all living cells

RNIB /ˌɑːr en aɪ ˈbiː/ [*the*] *abbrev. for:* ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

RNLI /ˌɑːr en el ˈaɪ/ [*the*] Royal National Lifeboat Institution; a British organization (a CHARITY) of unpaid workers who raise money for the LIFEBOAT service around the coast of Britain

roach[1] /rəʊtʃ/ *n* **roach** *or* **roaches** a European fresh-water fish related to the CARP

roach[2] *n* **1** *AmE infml for* COCKROACH **2** *sl* the unsmoked end of a MARIJUANA cigarette

road /rəʊd/ *n* **1** [C] a prepared track or way, usu. with a smooth hard surface, along which wheeled vehicles can travel: *a busy road* | *Follow the road round to the right and you'll find his house.* | *a main road* | *a side road* | *a bumpy* **dirt road** (=without a hard surface) | *It takes three hours by train and four* **by road** (=driving). | *a road map of Western Europe* | *He hasn't got much* **road sense.** (=drives/walks carelessly and is likely to have accidents) | *a road accident* (=car crash, etc.) | *a* **road safety** *campaign* (=to make people drive more safely, cross the road more carefully, etc.) | *My address is 21 Princess Road.* (*written abbrev.* **Rd**) —see also HIGH ROAD; see STREET (USAGE) **2** [S] *dial* one's way: *You're in my road|Get out of my road; I want to pass.* **3** [C] also **roads** *pl.*— *tech* an open stretch of deep water, such as at the mouth of a river, where ships can be kept **4 all roads lead to Rome** any opinions formed, or decisions made, etc. will take one to the same place in the end: *All roads lead to Bryant quality homes.* | *For Lendl all roads lead to Wimbledon.* **5 on the road: a** on a car journey; travelling, esp. for one's work: *I've been on the road since five o'clock this morning and I'm really tired.* | **b** moving towards (a desirable result): *He finally felt he was* **on the road to success** *after they agreed to publish his first book.* | *Scientists have not yet found a cure for the disease, but they believe they're* **on the right road.** (=getting close to finding one) **c** (of a group of performers, esp. a theatrical company or popular music band) giving a number of planned performances at different places: *When will the band be going on the road again?* | (fig., *infml*) *Let's* **get this show on the road.** (=get this activity started) —compare **be on the streets** (STREET) **6 hit the road** *AmE infml* to begin travelling: *We hit the road bright and early.* **7 one for the road** *infml* one last drink before leaving a party. This is now discouraged because drinking and driving is considered dangerous. **8 the road to hell is paved with good intentions** *saying* a phrase used to criticize someone who has promised to do a good action or to behave better but who is unlikely to actually do this **9 ye'll tak the high road and I'll tak the low road, and I'll be in Scotland afore you** a phrase from the popular song *The bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lomond*

road·block /ˈrəʊdblɒk‖-blɑːk/ *n* a bar or other object(s) placed across a road, esp. by the police, to stop traffic: *roadblocks put up to trap the fleeing terrorists* | (fig.) *American investors are growing restive over roadblocks to their projects.*

road haul·age /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the business of taking goods from one place to another by road

road haul·i·er /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* a person whose business is the carriage of goods by road

road hog /ˈ· ·/ *n infml derog* a fast, selfish, and careless car driver

road·house /ˈrəʊdhaʊs/ *n* **-houses** /ˌhaʊzɨz/ a restaurant or bar on a main road outside a city, to which one goes to eat, drink, dance, etc.

road·ie /ˈrəʊdi/ *n infml* a person whose job is moving equipment, driving, etc. for entertainers, esp. ROCK[3] musicians, when they are travelling

road kill /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE infml* an animal that has been killed by a vehicle on the road

road·man /ˈrəʊdmən/ also **road mend·er** /ˈ· ˌ··/— *n* **-men** /mən/ a man whose job is mending roads

road man·a·ger /ˈ· ˌ···/ *n* a person whose job is making arrangements for entertainers, esp. ROCK[3] musicians, when they are travelling

road rol·ler /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a heavy machine with very wide wheels for driving over and flattening road surfaces — see also STEAMROLLER[1]

road·run·ner /ˈrəʊdˌrʌnəʳ/ *n* **1** a small bird which runs very fast and lives in the central and western areas of the US **2** (*cap.*) a CARTOON character on television like this bird, which always escapes when a COYOTE (called Wiley Coyote) tries to catch it

road safe·ty /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] the prevention of people being

killed or hurt by road traffic: *the Government's new road safety campaign*

road·show /ˈrəʊdʃəʊ/ *n* a group that travels around the country giving public performances for the purpose of entertainment, advertising, etc.

road·side /ˈrəʊdsaɪd/ *n* [*the*] the edge of the road: *We ate our meal by the roadside|at a roadside pub.*

road·sign /ˈrəʊdsaɪn/ *n* a sign by a road which gives information about the way ahead or instructions to road users

road·ster /ˈrəʊdstəʳ/ *n old-fash* an open sports car with two seats

road tax /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] a tax (esp. in Britain) which the owner of a vehicle must pay to be allowed to drive it on the road: *Always display your (road) tax disc on the vehicle.*

road test /ˈ· ·/ *n* a test of a vehicle on public roads to see if it is fit to be on the road —**road-test** *v* [T]

road·way /ˈrəʊdweɪ/ *n* [*the*] the middle part of a road where vehicles drive: *Don't stop on the roadway; move in to the side.*

road·work /ˈrəʊdwɜːk‖-wɜːrk/ *n* [U] the running done by sportsmen, e.g. BOXERS to prepare for a match

road works /ˈrəʊdwɜːks‖-ɜːr-/ *n* [P] (often seen in Britain on a warning sign for motorists) road repairs being done

road·wor·thy /ˈrəʊdˌwɜːðiˌ‖-ɜːr-/ *adj* (of a vehicle) in proper and safe condition to be driven —**-thiness** *n* [U]

roam /rəʊm/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*;T] to wander with no very clear purpose: *The lovers roamed across the fields in complete forgetfulness of the time.* | *Crowds of youths roamed the streets looking for trouble.* —~**er** *n*

roan /rəʊn/ *n, adj* (a horse) of a mixed colour, esp. brown with white hairs in it

roar[1] /rɔːʳ/ *n* a deep loud continuing sound: *the roar of an angry lion|of a football crowd|of an aircraft engine|of the wind and waves* | *roars of laughter*

roar[2] *v* **1** [I] to give a roar: *The lion|The football crowd roared.* | *I turned the key and the engine roared into life.* | *The traffic roared past.* | *He roared with pain|anger.* **2** [T (OUT)] to say or express loudly or with force: *The crowd roared (out) their approval.* | *"Come here, you horrible little man!" he roared.* **3** [I] *infml* to laugh long and loudly: *His jokes made us all roar (with laughter).* **4** [I] *infml* (of a child) to cry noisily: *Billy began to roar when I took the chocolate away.*

roaring /ˈrɔːrɪŋ/ *adv, adj* [A] *infml* (in certain phrases) to a very great degree: *He came home* **roaring drunk.** | *The film was a* **roaring success.** | *The new restaurant is* **doing a roaring trade.** (=doing very good business)

roaring for·ties /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [*the*+P] the part of the Atlantic Ocean about 40 degrees north of the Equator where storms are very common

Roaring Twen·ties /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the 1920s, esp. in the US, where life was thought to be very adventurous because of Prohibition, GANGSTERS, and FLAPPERS

roast[1] /rəʊst/ *v* **1** [I; T] to cook (esp. meat) or be cooked by dry heat, either in front of an open fire or in an OVEN: *Roast the chicken at about 200°C.* | *The beef is roasting nicely on the spit.* | *roasted coffee beans* | (fig.) *They sat in the sun roasting themselves.* —see COOK (USAGE) and see picture at PAN **2** *AmE infml* to say funny things about a person whom a group has gathered to honour: *Don Rickles got up and roasted Alan King.* —~**er** n

roast[2] *n* **1** a large piece of roasted meat: *Let's have a nice roast for Sunday dinner.* | *Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding is a common British meal.* | *Roast lamb and mint sauce are often eaten as a Sunday lunch.* **2** *AmE infml* an occasion when a group of people honour a person by saying funny and then kind things about him: *a celebrity roast on TV* **3** *AmE* an outdoor party at which the stated kind of meat is roasted and eaten: *a pig|hot dog roast*

roast[3] *adj* [A] roasted: *a roast chicken* | *roast potatoes* | *medium roast coffee*

roast beef /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [U] the meat of farm cattle which has been roasted. Roast beef, esp. served with YORKSHIRE PUDDING for Sunday lunch, is thought of as the most typical English food. —see also SUNDAY LUNCH

roast·ing[1] /ˈrəʊstɪŋ/ *adv, adj* very (hot): *a roasting (hot) summer day* | *I'm roasting out here; let's go into the shade.*

roasting[2] *n infml* an act of expressing strong angry disapproval: *He got a real roasting from the teacher for being insolent.*

rob /rɒb‖rɑːb/ *v* **-bb-** [T (**of**)] **1** to take the property of (a person or organization) illegally, esp. using violence, threats, etc.: *I've been robbed!* | *The brothers planned to rob a bank.* | *They knocked him down and robbed him of his watch.* (compare *They stole his watch.*) | (fig.) *The silly ending robs the plot of any credibility.* —see STEAL (USAGE) **2 rob Peter to pay Paul** to take or get something from one person in order to pay another **3 we was|wuz robbed!** *sl humor* a phrase typically said by supporters of a sports team who feel that the team lost a match unfairly

rob·ber /ˈrɒbəʳ‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* a person who robs or has robbed: *a gang of robbers* —compare BURGLAR, THIEF

robber bar·on /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n AmE* one of a group of mostly late 19th century American businessmen who made very large fortunes without regard to fairness or honesty

rob·ber·y /ˈrɒbəri‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* [C;U] (an example of) the crime of taking someone else's property; robbing: *He had committed several robberies in the neighbourhood.* | *He was charged with* **robbery with violence.** —see also DAYLIGHT ROBBERY

robe[1] /rəʊb/ *n* **1** also **robes** *pl*— a long loose garment worn for official or ceremonial occasions: *a judge's black robes* **2** *esp. AmE* a long loose garment worn informally indoors —see also BATHROBE

robe[2] *v* [I;T (**in**)] *rare* to dress (oneself or someone else) in robes; put on a robe: *The king and queen were robed in red.*

Rob·erts /ˈrɒbəts‖ˈrɑːbərts/, **Oral** (1918–) a television preacher (PREACH) in the US who started a university in Oklahoma. He is remembered for saying on television that God would take him up to heaven if more than a million dollars was not raised for his university by a certain date.

Robert the Bruce see Robert BRUCE

Robe·son /ˈrəʊbsən/, **Paul** (1898–1976) an American singer and actor whose wide success in Britain and the US was unusual for a black person at that time. He left the US during the time of MCCARTHY because of his COMMUNIST beliefs. His most popular song was *Ol' Man River* from the musical *Showboat.*

Robes·pierre /ˈrəʊbspɪəʳ/, **Max·i·mil·i·en** /ˌmæksɪˈmɪliən/ (1758–94) one of the leaders of the FRENCH REVOLUTION, whose head was cut off at the GUILLOTINE after his short period in power

rob·in /ˈrɒbɨn‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* **1** a common small European bird with a brown back and wings and a red breast **2** any of various larger birds that look like this, in the US and other English-speaking countries —see picture at BIRD, and see also ROUND ROBIN

Robin[1] Batman's young partner, who helps him to fight criminals. Robin is also known as the "Boy Wonder". —see also BATMAN

Robin[2]**, Christopher** see Christopher ROBIN

Robin Hood /ˌ·· ˈ·/ according to old stories, a man who lived as an OUTLAW in Sherwood Forest, near Nottingham, with a group of companions (the "Merry Men"), including Little John, Friar Tuck, and his lover Maid Marion. Robin Hood is remembered esp. for stealing money from rich people and giving it to poor people. His main enemy was the Sheriff of Nottingham, who was always trying to catch and punish him. Robin Hood is usu. shown dressed in green clothes and holding a BOW[3] (1): *Labour MPs deem him a Robin Hood in reverse, robbing the poor to give to the rich.* —see colour picture on page 620

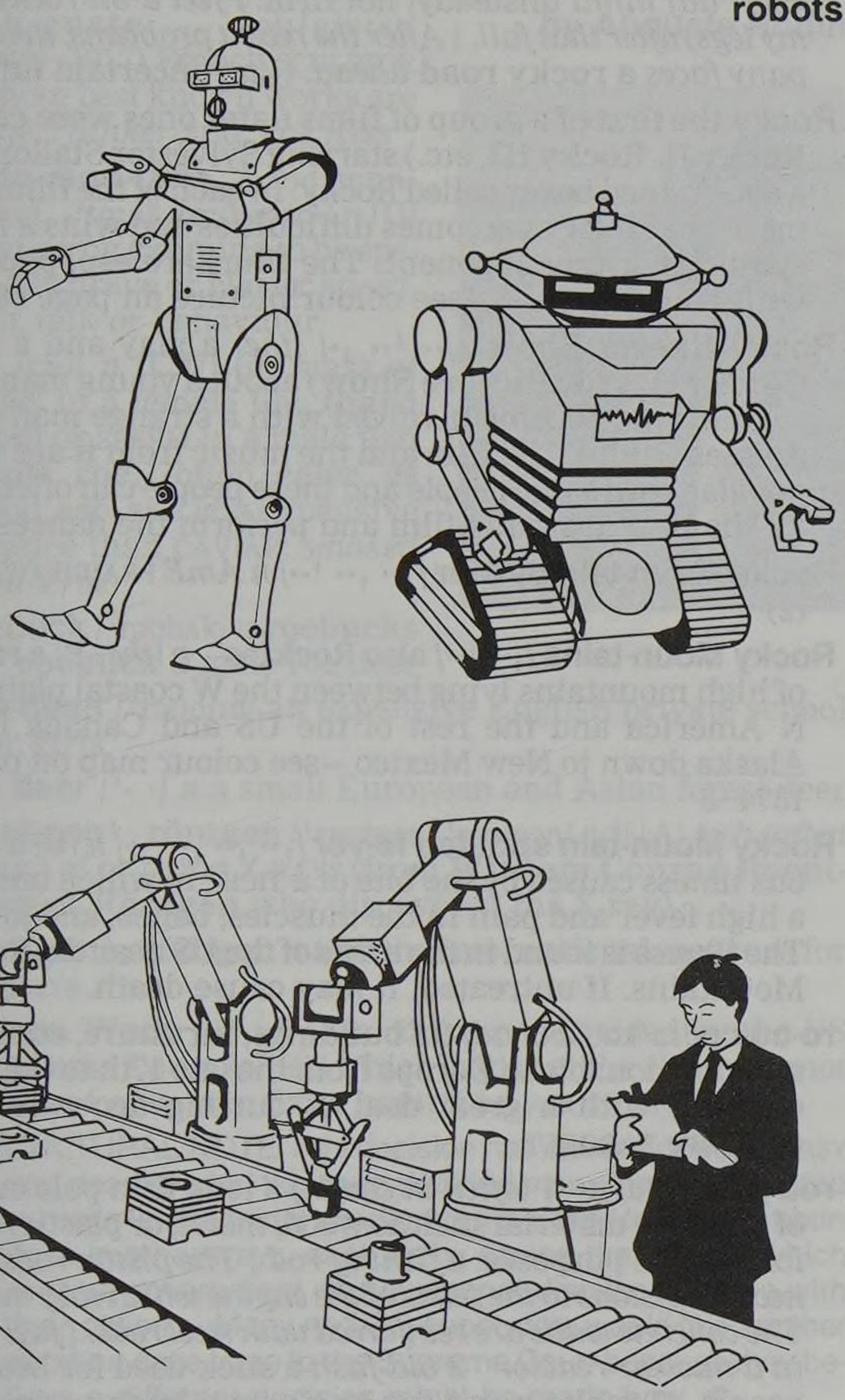
Rob·in·son /ˈrɒbɨnsən‖ˈrɑː-/, **Edward G.** (1893–1973) an American film actor famous for character parts and playing GANGSTERS

Robinson, Jackie (1919–72) an American who was the first black man to be allowed to play BASEBALL in the MAJOR LEAGUE

Rob·in·son, Smok·ey /ˈsməʊki/ (1940–) an American popular music singer, songwriter, and businessman who first became successful in the 1960s with the group The Miracles and the record company Motown, of which he later became Vice-President

Robinson, Sugar Ray (1920–89) an American BOXER, winner of six world titles

Robinson Cru·soe /ˌrɒbɨnsən ˈkruːsəʊ‖ˌrɑː-/ a character from a story of the same name by Daniel Defoe. Robinson Crusoe's boat sinks and he finds himself alone on an island. He manages to live by using whatever he can find by his own cleverness. He also meets a black man whom he calls Man Friday who becomes his servant and companion. They are both finally discovered by a British ship and taken home. —see colour picture on page 1145



robots

industrial robots

ro·bot /ˈrəʊbɒt‖-bɑːt, -bət/ *n* a machine that can move and do some of the work of a human being and is usu. controlled by a computer: *These cars were built by robots.* | (fig.) *They were so brainwashed that they worked like robots, with no thought or initiative of their own.*

ro·bo·tics /rəʊˈbɒtɪks‖-ˈbɑː-/ *n* [U] the study of the making and use of robots

Rob Roy /ˌrɒb ˈrɔɪ‖ˌrɑːb-/ (1671–1734) a Scottish OUTLAW, known as the "Robin Hood of Scotland", who lived largely by stealing cows and selling protection against thieves. He was ordered to leave Scotland as punishment but was later forgiven. He is remembered mainly through Sir Walter Scott's NOVEL of the same name.

Rob·son[1] /ˈrɒbsən‖ˈrɑːb-/, **Bobby** (1933–) a former English football player at club and national level and a former manager of Ipswich football club and the England football team

Robson[2], **Bry·an** /ˈbraɪən/ (1957–) an English football player who has played for Manchester United since 1981 and was the captain of England for a long time

Robson[3], **Dame Flora** (1902–84) an English actress

ro·bust /rəˈbʌst, ˈrəʊbʌst/ *adj* **1** *apprec* having or showing good health or strength: *a very robust child who never gets ill* | *a robust company* | *That chair's not very robust; don't sit on it!* **2** *euph* using strong arguments; forceful and effective: *rather robust criticism* | *a robust defence of the Administration's record* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Roc /rɒk‖rɑːk/ [*the*] in ancient Eastern stories, a bird of great size and strength which, in the story of *Sindbad the Sailor*, carried Sindbad out of the valley of diamonds

Roch·dale /ˈrɒtʃdeɪl‖ˈrɑːtʃ-/ a town in NW England near Manchester formerly known esp. for its cotton MILLS[1] (2)

rock[1] /rɒk‖rɑːk/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) move regularly backwards and forwards or from side to side: *The boat rocked (to and fro) on the water.* | *She rocked the child in her arms.* | *He* **rocked** *the baby* **to sleep** *in the cradle.* **2** [T] to cause great shock and surprise to: *The news of the President's murder rocked the nation.* **3 Rock-a-bye baby on the tree top** the first line of a song sung to get children to go to sleep **4 rock the boat** *derog* to spoil the good or comfortable situation that exists: *We've been doing it this way for years; don't rock the boat by trying to introduce new methods.*

rock[2] *n* **1** [C;U] (a type of) stone forming part of the Earth's surface: *To build this tunnel we had to cut through (the) solid rock.* | *They go rock-climbing every weekend.* | *an interesting rock formation* | *igneous rocks* | *The house is* **as solid as a rock.** (=very strong and well built) **2** [C] a large separate piece of stone: *There's danger from falling rocks.* **3** [C] *AmE* any stone, large or small: *They threw rocks at her car.* **4** [U] *BrE* a hard sticky kind of sweet made in long round bars and sold esp. at the seaside in Britain with the name of the place marked in it: *a stick of (Brighton) rock* **5** [C *usu. pl.*] *sl, esp. AmE* a diamond **6 between a rock and a hard place** having two possible courses of action open to one, both of which are dangerous, unpleasant, etc. **7 Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee** the first words of a famous HYMN (=religious song) written in 1775 by the Reverend Toplady, who had the idea for the hymn while sheltering from a storm, in a CAVE within a large rock

rock[3] also **rock music**— *n* [U] **1** any of several styles of popular modern music which are based on ROCK 'N' ROLL, usu. played on electrical instruments: *a rock concert* — compare POP[3] **2** ROCK 'N' ROLL

rock bot·tom /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *n* [U] the lowest point; the bottom: *Prices have reached rock bottom.* | *Performance standards have fallen to rock bottom.* | *rock-bottom prices at the sales*

rock·bound /ˈrɒkbaʊnd‖ˈrɑːk-/ *adj* (of a coast) bordered with rocks

rock cake /ˈ· ·/ also **rock bun**— *n BrE* a small hard cake with a rough surface

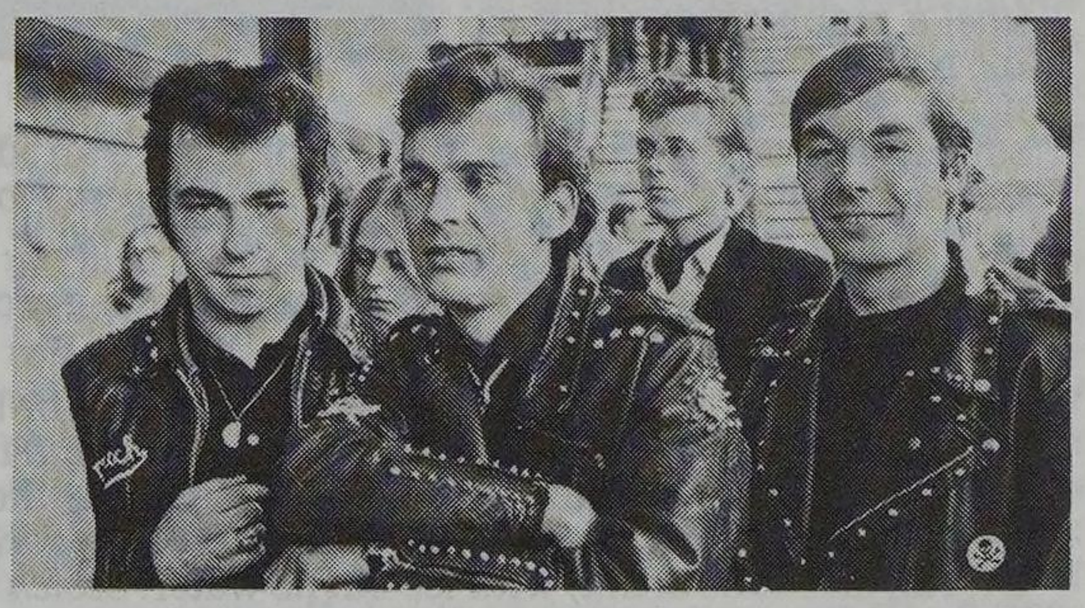
rock climb·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the sport of climbing up large rocks and parts of mountains which are impossible to walk up

rock dash /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *AmE for* PEBBLEDASH

Rock·e·fel·ler /ˈrɒkəfelə^{r}‖ˈrɑːk-/, **John D** (1839–1937) a very wealthy American bank owner who gave away millions of dollars, esp. for medical studies and to start the University of Chicago. His son, **John D Rockefeller II**, gave the land for the United Nations HEADQUARTERS and built the **Rockefeller Center** in New York City, a large group of buildings which includes offices, shops, and various places of entertainment. —see colour map on page 1376

rock·er[1] /ˈrɒkə^{r}‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* **1** either of the curved pieces of wood fixed to the underside of a ROCKING CHAIR, ROCKING HORSE, or CRADLE[1] (1) which allow movement backwards and forwards when pushed **2** ROCKING CHAIR **3 off one's rocker** *infml, often humor* mad

rockers



rocker[2] *n* (*often cap.*) a member of a group of young people, in Britain esp. in the 1960s, following a fashion for leather clothes, motorcycles, and ROCK 'N' ROLL —compare MOD

rock·e·ry /ˈrɒkəri‖ˈrɑː-/ also **rock garden**— *n* a (part of a) garden laid out as a pile of rocks with low-growing plants growing between them

rock·et[1] /ˈrɒkɨt‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* **1** a usu. tube-shaped object that is driven through the air by burning gases and is used

for travelling into space, for helping aircraft to take off, etc.: *The space rocket was launched and went into orbit.* | *a two-stage rocket* —see also RETRO-ROCKET **2** a similar object used as a weapon, esp. one that carries a bomb: *an anti-tank rocket* | *a rocket base* **3** also **skyrocket**— a small tube that has a stick fixed to it, is driven through the air by burning explosive powder, and is used as a FIREWORK **4** *BrE infml* a case of being severely spoken to because one has done something wrong: *You'll really get a rocket if you're late again!*

rocket[2] *v* [I] **1** [(UP)] also **skyrocket**— (esp. of an amount, price, etc.) to rise quickly and suddenly: *The price of sugar has suddenly rocketed (up).* **2** [+*adv*/*prep*] to move at very great speed: *The train rocketed through the station at 90 miles an hour.* | (fig.) *After his amazing success in the film he rocketed to stardom.*

rocket launch·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a machine, carried by hand or on a vehicle, for sending up military rocket-type bombs

Rock·ettes /rɒˈkets‖rɑː-/ [*the* +P] a group of women who perform at Radio City Music Hall, singing and dancing, usu. while in a line across the stage

rock·fall /ˈrɒkˌfɔːl‖ˈrɑːk-/ *n* a mass of falling or fallen rocks

rock gar·den /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a ROCKERY

rock hard /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* as hard as a rock

rock hound /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE infml* **1** a GEOLOGIST **2** a collector of rocks and minerals

Rock·ies /ˈrɒkiz‖rɑː-/ see ROCKY MOUNTAINS

rock·ing chair /ˈ·· ·/ also **rocker**— *n* a chair fitted with ROCKERS so that it moves backwards and forwards when a person sits in it

►CULTURAL NOTE Rocking chairs are often thought of as used by old people or country people or for sitting in while calming a baby. —see picture at CHAIR◄

rocking horse /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a wooden horse for a child to ride on fitted with ROCKERS so that it moves backwards and forwards

rock mu·sic /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] see ROCK[3]

Rock·ne /ˈrɒkni‖rɑːk-/, **Knute** /nuːt/ (1888–1931) an American FOOTBALL (2) COACH (teacher) who helped improve the standards of the game. When one of his players was ill, Rockne told his team to win the game for "the Gipper". President Ronald Reagan, who as an actor played in a film about Rockne, often used the phrase "do it for the Gipper."

rock 'n' roll /ˌrɒk ən ˈrəʊl‖ˌrɑːk-/ also **rock, rock and roll**— *n* [U] a style of music that was popular esp. in the 1950s but is still played now, which has a strong loud beat and is usu. played on electrical instruments and repeats a few simple phrases. It was first made popular by Bill Haley and Elvis Presley. —compare POP[3]

rock 'n' roll



Rock of Gi·bral·tar /ˌ· · ·ˈ··/ [*the*] a mountainous cliff at the NW end of the Mediterranean Sea. British people sometimes mention it when they want to give an idea that something is very solid: *"That tree house doesn't look very safe to me." "Oh, it's like the Rock of Gibraltar."*

rock plant /ˈ· ·/ *n* a plant that grows naturally among rocks and can be planted in a ROCKERY

rocks /rɒks‖rɑːks/ *n* [P] **1** a line of ROCK[2] (1) under or beside the sea: *The ship was driven onto the rocks during the storm.* **2 on the rocks:** *infml* **a** in difficulties; likely to fail soon: *The business*|*Their marriage is on the rocks.* **b** (of an alcoholic drink) with ice but no water: *Scotch on the rocks*

rock sal·mon /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] *BrE* (the trade name for) any of several inexpensive types of fish, such as DOGFISH, when sold as food

rock salt /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] common salt of the type found in mines, not in the sea

rock sol·id /ˌ· ˈ··/ *adj* very firm and safe: *The reserves of the Building Society are rock solid.* | *Support for the Tory candidate was rock solid.*

Rock·well /ˈrɒkwəl‖ˈrɑːk-/, **Norman** (1894–1978) an American artist who drew many pictures of ordinary small-town people for popular magazines, often showing the American way of life in an idealistic (IDEALIST) way. His style of painting is very well known in the US.

rock·y[1] /ˈrɒki‖ˈrɑːki/ *adj* **1** full of rocks or made of rock: *a rocky path up the mountain* | *rocky soil* **2** hard like rock —**-iness** *n* [U]

rocky[2] *adj infml* unsteady; not firm: *I feel a bit rocky (on my legs) after that fall.* | *After the recent problems, the company faces* **a rocky road** *ahead.* (=an uncertain future)

Rocky the first of a group of films (later ones were called **Rocky II**, **Rocky III**, etc.) starring Sylvester Stallone as a determined boxer called Rocky. In each of the films the main character overcomes difficulties and wins a fight against a strong opponent. The films are esp. popular with young people. —see colour picture on page 685

Rocky Hor·ror Show /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ·/ [*the*] a play and a film (**Rocky Horror Picture Show**) about a young man and woman who become involved with a strange man who dresses wildly. The film and the music from it are very popular with some people and these people can often say all the lines from the film and perform the dances.

Rocky Moun·tain oy·ster /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n AmE* PRAIRIE OYSTER (2)

Rocky Moun·tains /ˌ·· ˈ··/ also **Rockies**— *n* [*the*+P] a range of high mountains lying between the W coastal plains of N America and the rest of the US and Canada from Alaska down to New Mexico —see colour map on pages 1374–5

Rocky Moun·tain spot·ted fe·ver /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a serious illness caused by the bite of a TICK[3] in which one has a high fever and pain in the muscles, bones, and joints. The illness is found in the areas of the US near the Rocky Mountains. If untreated, it may cause death.

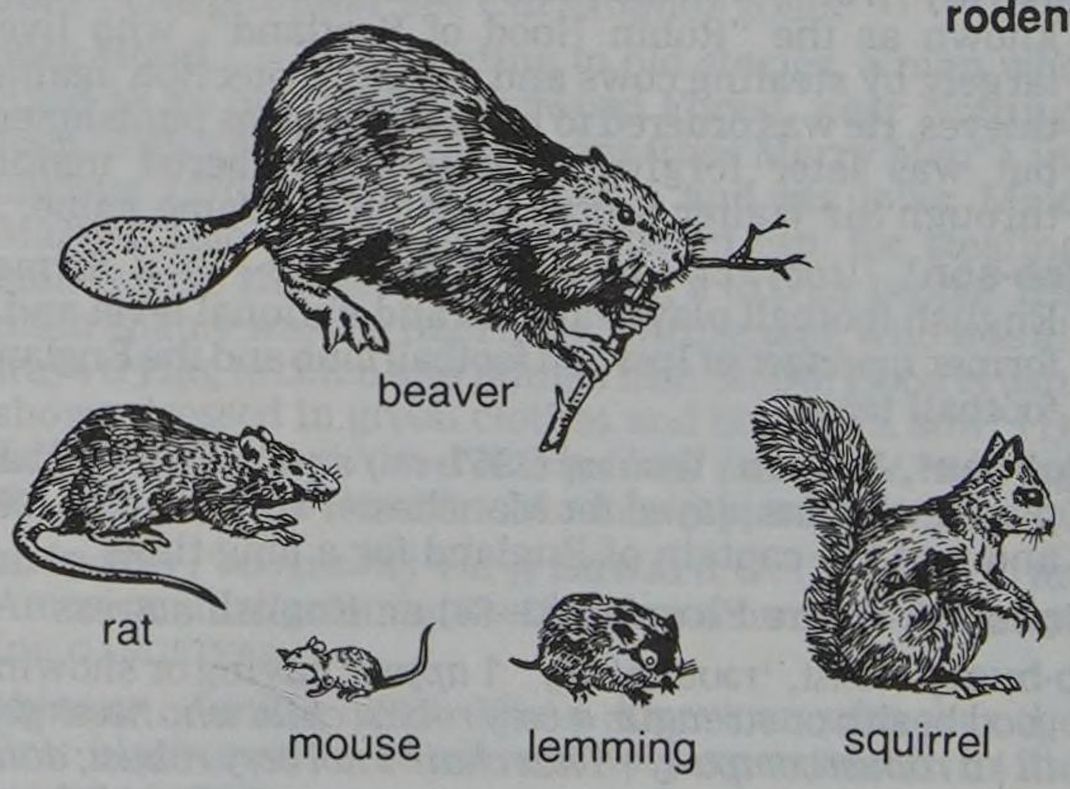
ro·co·co /rəˈkəʊkəʊ/ *adj* (of buildings, furniture, etc.) in a style fashionable in Europe from the late 17th to the 18th century, with a great deal of curling decoration — compare BAROQUE

rod /rɒd‖rɑːd/ *n* **1** (*often in comb.*) a long thin pole or bar of any firm material such as wood, metal, or plastic, used for various purposes: *a fishing-rod* | *The piston-rods connect the pistons to the parts of the engine which they move.* | *The concrete walls are reinforced with steel rods.* | *fuel rods in a nuclear reactor* **2** *old-fash* a stick used for beating people **3 make a rod for one's own back** to prepare trouble for oneself in the future —see also HOT ROD, **rule with a rod of iron** (RULE[2]), **spare the rod** (SPARE[1])

Rod·dick /ˈrɒdɪk‖ˈrɑː-/, **A·ni·ta** /əˈniːtə/ (1942–) a successful British businesswoman who established the group of Body Shops which sell soap and beauty products. She is known for her concern for the environment.

rode /rəʊd/ *past tense of* RIDE

rodents



ro·dent /ˈrəʊdənt/ *n fml or tech* a small plant-eating animal with strong sharp long front teeth: *Rats, mice, and rabbits are rodents*|*members of the rodent family.*

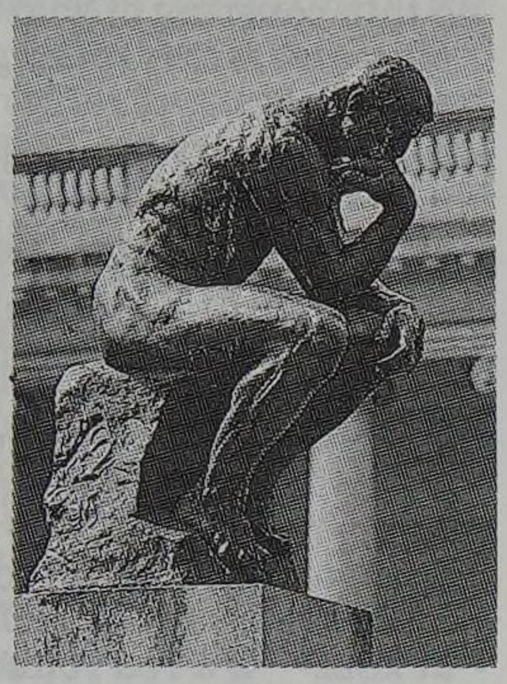
ro·de·o /ˈrəʊdi-əʊ, rəʊˈdeɪ-əʊ/ *n* **-os** (esp. in Canada and the western US) a public entertainment at which COWBOYS ride wild horses, catch cattle with ropes, etc. —see colour picture on page 884

Ro·de·o Drive /rəʊˌdeɪəʊ ˈdraɪv/ a street in Beverly Hills, California, which has many expensive shops

Rod·gers /ˈrɒdʒəz‖ˈrɑːdʒərz/, **Richard** (1902–79) an American songwriter and COMPOSER who wrote many songs for musical plays and films with Lorenz Hart, including *My Funny Valentine* and *The Lady is a Tramp*, and then with Oscar Hammerstein, such as *Oklahoma!, The King and I,* and *The Sound of Music*

Ro·din /ˈrəʊdæn‖rəʊˈdæn/, **Au·guste** /əʊˈgjuːst/ (1840–1917) French SCULPTOR whose best known works are *The Thinker* and *The Kiss*

***The Thinker* by Auguste Rodin**



ro·do·mon·tade /ˌrɒdəmɒnˈteɪd, -ˈtɑːd‖ˌrɑːdəmən-/ *n* [U] *fml derog* claiming to be specially brave or clever; BOASTFUL talk or behaviour

roe /rəʊ/ *n* [C;U] (a) mass of eggs in a female fish **(hard roe)** or SPERM in a male fish **(soft roe),** often eaten as food, esp. as a less expensive choice than CAVIAR: *smoked cod's roe*

roe·buck /ˈrəʊbʌk/ *n* **roebucks** *or* **roebuck** a male roe deer

Roe·dean /ˈrəʊdiːn/ an expensive English private school for girls

roe deer /ˈ· ·/ *n* a small European and Asian forest deer

roent·gen[1] **, röntgen** /ˈrɒntgən‖ˈrentgən/ *adj* [A] *tech* (*often cap.*) of or being X-RAYS (from **William Conrad Roentgen** or **Röntgen** who discovered the X-ray)

roentgen[2] **, röntgen** *n tech* the international measure for X-RAYS

Roe vs. Wade /ˌ· ·· ˈ·/ *n* a court case decided by the US Supreme Court in 1973 which said that the states cannot prevent a woman from having an ABORTION

►CULTURAL NOTE This decision has caused CONTROVERSY and despite what the court decided many states have tried to make laws against abortion or have tried to prevent abortions in other ways, such as by saying that CLINICS which receive government money cannot discuss abortion with their patients. Many PRO-LIFE supporters would like another abortion case to go to the Supreme Court because they believe a different decision might be made now.◄

ro·ger /ˈrɒdʒəʳ‖ˈrɑː-/ *interj* (used in radio and signalling to say that a message has been received and understood): *"Roger, control. Over and out."*

Roger *n* see JOLLY ROGER

Ro·gers /ˈrɒdʒəz‖ˈrɑːdʒərz/, **Buck** a HERO in a COMIC who had many adventures in space

Rogers, Ginger (1911–) an American film actress and dancer best known as Fred Astaire's partner in 1930s musicals –see picture at Fred ASTAIRE

Rogers, Richard (1933–) a leading British ARCHITECT who designed (DESIGN) the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Lloyd's Building in London

Rogers, Roy /rɔɪ/ (1912–) an American actor who usu. played a COWBOY. With his wife **Dale Evans** (1912–) and his horse **Trigger** he appeared in a television programme in the 1950s and 1960s. At the end of their programme he and his wife always sang the song "Happy Trails to You," which is still associated with them. –see also ROY ROGERS

Rogers, Will (1879–1935) an American actor and HUMORIST. Rogers sometimes told jokes while spinning a LASSO (a rope) and often made fun of politics and politicians. People believe that Rogers once said "I never met a man I didn't like," though what he really said was slightly different.

Ro·get /ˈrɒʒeɪ‖rəʊˈʒeɪ/, **Peter Mark** (1779–1869) a British scientist and writer of *Roget's Thesaurus*, now a standard work on the English language

Roget's The·sau·rus /ˌ·· ·ˈ··‖·ˌ· ·ˈ··/ *tdmk* the original THESAURUS (=a book of words arranged in groups according to connections between their meanings) written in English by Roget and printed in 1852

rogue[1] /rəʊg/ *n* **1** a dishonest person, esp. a man: *Don't buy a used car from that rogue.* **2** *not derog, often humor* a person who enjoys making trouble, but usu. in a harmless and playful way; MISCHIEVOUS person

rogue[2] *adj* [A] **1** (of a wild animal) living apart from the rest and very easily made angry: *a rogue elephant* **2** not following the usual or accepted standards, esp. in an uncontrollable or troublesome way: *rogue politicians who go against the party line*

rogu·e·ry /ˈrəʊgəri/ *n* [C;U] (a piece of) behaviour typical of a rogue

rogues' gal·ler·y /ˌ· ˈ···/ *n* a collection of (pictures of) bad or unpleasant people, esp. criminals

rogu·ish /ˈrəʊgɪʃ/ *adj often humor* playful, perhaps slightly dishonest, and fond of playing tricks or making trouble: *a roguish grin* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

rois·ter·er /ˈrɔɪstərəʳ/ *n old-fash* a rough cheerful noisy person: *a crowd of drunken roisterers*

role /rəʊl/ *n* **1** the part or character taken by an actor in a play, film, etc.: *Olivier played/took the role of Hamlet.* | *She prefers to play comic roles.* **2** the duty or purpose of a person or group in a particular activity or area of life: *The local priest played a leading role in settling the dispute.* | *the increasingly important role of the media in political life* | *The success of her business made it difficult for her to fulfil her role as wife and mother.* –see also TITLE ROLE

role mod·el /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a person whose behaviour in a particular ROLE (2) is copied or is likely to be copied by others, esp. because he or she is admired

role play·ing /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] the act of behaving in a way typical of someone else or of an imaginary person, either unconsciously or for the purpose of learning a job, learning how to behave in certain social situations, etc. –**role play** *n, v*

role reversal /ˈ· ·ˌ··/ *n* [C;U] (an act of) doing what the opposite sex usu. does esp. in areas such as work, care of children, jobs in the house etc.

Ro·lex /ˈrəʊleks/ *n tdmk* a very expensive type of watch

rolf·ing /ˈrɒlfɪŋ‖ˈrɑːl-/ also **Structural Integration**– *n* [U] *tdmk* a method of improving the body's shape and balance by moving and reshaping the deep muscles and TISSUES. Rolfing was developed by Ida P Rolf (1896–1979), an American doctor (PhD) of PHYSIOLOGY. The method is better-known in the US than in Britain, but is still new to the public. As it is not practised by an ordinary doctor, but by a trained **rolfer**, it is considered a kind of ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE:*He's going to try rolfing.*

roll[1] /rəʊl/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to turn over and over or from side to side, or move by doing this: *The dog rolled on the floor/in the mud.* | *The ball rolled into the hole.* | *They rolled the logs down the hill into the river.* | *Roll up your sleeves/trousers before putting your arms/legs in the water.* | *The driver rolled down his window* (=opened it by turning the handle) *to speak to the policeman.* **2** [T (UP)] to form into a tube or other (stated) shape by curling round and round: *to roll up a carpet* | *He rolled (up) his umbrella.* | *The cat rolled itself into a ball and went to sleep.* | *He rolled a cigarette.* (=made one by wrapping paper round tobacco) –opposite **unroll;** see also ROLL **out** (2) **3** [I] to move steadily and smoothly along (as if) on wheels: *The train rolled slowly into the station.* | *The waves rolled over the sand.* | *Tears were rolling down her cheeks.* | *Time rolled on.* **4** [I;T] to move or cause (the eyes) to move round and round: *She rolled her eyes in disbelief.* **5** [I;T] to throw (DICE): *Have you rolled (the dice) yet?* **6** [I] (of a ship) to swing from side to side with the movement of the waves: *The ship rolled so heavily that we were all sick.* | (fig.) *The drunken man rolled home to bed.* –compare PITCH[1] (5), YAW **7** [T] to make flat by pressing with a ROLLER (1) or ROLLING PIN: *The lawn should be well rolled.* | *Roll the pastry as flat as you can.* | *rolled oats* –compare ROLL **out** (1) **8** [I] to make a long deep sound like that of a lot of quick strokes: *The thunder/The drums rolled.* **9** [I] (of a machine, esp. a film camera) to work or begin working: *Are the cameras rolling?* | *The presses* (=for printing a newspaper) *are ready to roll.* | (fig.) *He hopes to get his new venture rolling by July.* **10** [T] *AmE sl* to rob someone when he is drunk or asleep: *He got some change by rolling a drunk.* **11 a rolling stone gathers no moss** a person who frequently changes his/her job, place of living, etc. will not

become tied to anything that limits their freedom **12 rolled into one** (of something with different parts or qualities) in a single thing, activity, etc.: *Breakfast TV is like a chat show and a news programme rolled into one.* **13 roll in the aisles** (esp. of people at the theatre) to laugh uncontrollably **14 roll one's r's** to pronounce the sound /r/ with the tongue beating rapidly against the roof of the mouth, as is common e.g. in Scotland **15 roll one's own** *infml* to make one's own cigarettes instead of buying them –see also **set/start/keep the ball rolling** (BALL), **heads will roll** (HEAD[1]), **rolling in it** (ROLLING) **16 roll out of bed** *AmE infml* to get out of bed

roll around/round to come again, esp. as part of a pattern: *School will soon be rolling around again, the summer's nearly over.*

roll sthg. ↔ **back** *phr v* [T] **1** to force (opponents) to move back; push back: *We rolled back the enemy forces on all fronts.* | (fig.) *to roll back the frontiers of science|the powers of central government* **2** *AmE* to reduce (prices)

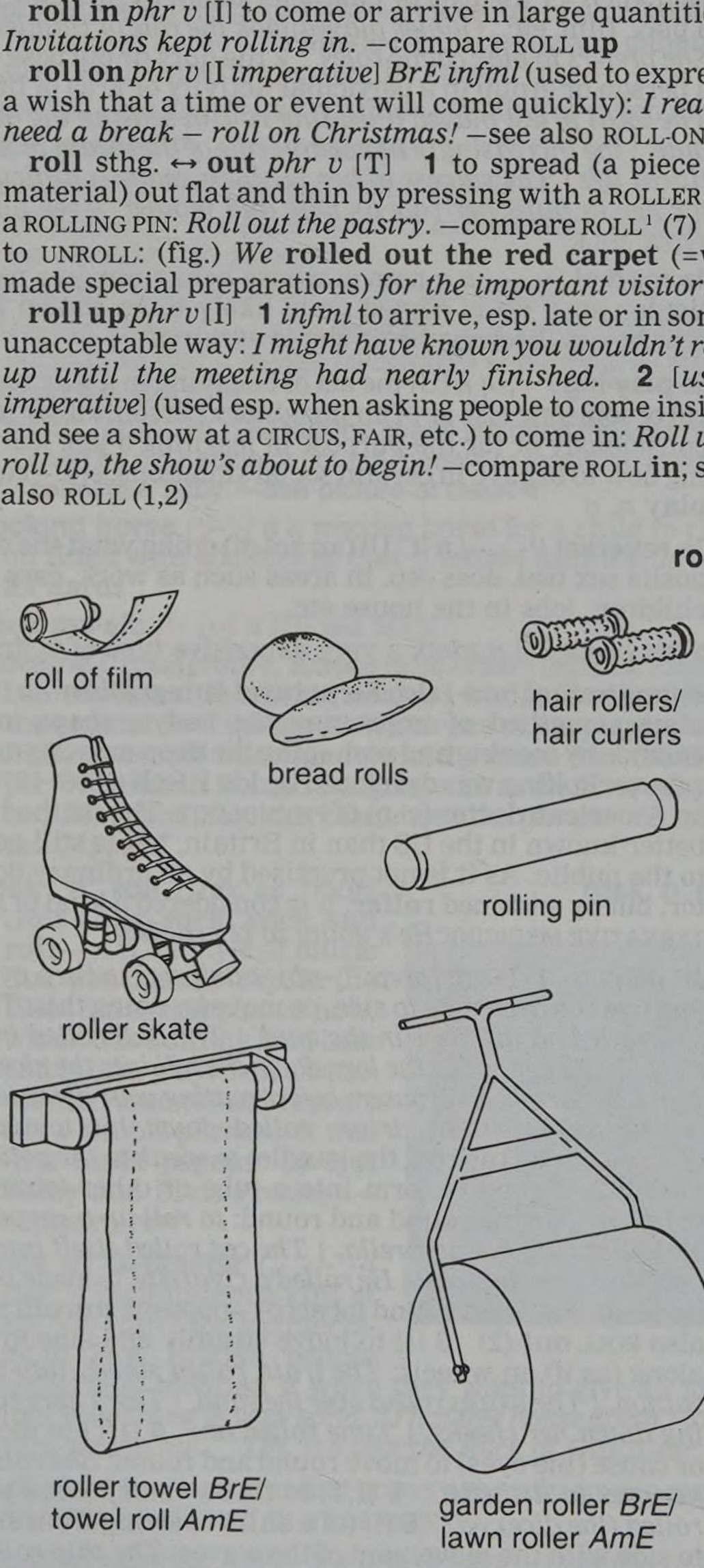
roll in *phr v* [I] to come or arrive in large quantities: *Invitations kept rolling in.* –compare ROLL **up**

roll on *phr v* [I *imperative*] *BrE infml* (used to express a wish that a time or event will come quickly): *I really need a break – roll on Christmas!* –see also ROLL-ON

roll sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] **1** to spread (a piece of material) out flat and thin by pressing with a ROLLER or a ROLLING PIN: *Roll out the pastry.* –compare ROLL[1] (7) **2** to UNROLL: (fig.) *We* **rolled out the red carpet** (=we made special preparations) *for the important visitor.*

roll up *phr v* [I] **1** *infml* to arrive, esp. late or in some unacceptable way: *I might have known you wouldn't roll up until the meeting had nearly finished.* **2** [*usu. imperative*] (used esp. when asking people to come inside and see a show at a CIRCUS, FAIR, etc.) to come in: *Roll up, roll up, the show's about to begin!* –compare ROLL **in**; see also ROLL (1,2)

rolls



roll[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of rolling; a rolling movement, over and over or from side to side: *a young horse having a roll on the grass* | *the slow roll of a ship on the rough sea* | *another roll of the dice* –compare PITCH[2] (5) **2** [C (**of**)] a piece of flat material that has been rolled into a tube: *a roll of film|of paper|of cloth* –see picture at ROLL[1] **3** [C] something in this shape: *She was disgusted by the rolls of fat on his stomach.* **4** [C] a small loaf for one person, either long or round: *crusty|soft rolls* | *a cheese roll* (=cut and filled with cheese) –see also SAUSAGE ROLL, SPRING ROLL, and picture at ROLL[1] **5** [(*the*) +**of**] a long deep sound (as if) of a lot of quick strokes: *a roll of thunder|of drums* | *We heard the distant roll of the big guns.* **6** [C] an official list of names: *The teacher* **called the roll.** (=read the list aloud to see if everyone was there) **7** [C] the act of throwing DICE: *Come on, it's your roll!* | *I had doubles so I get another roll.*

roll bar /ˈ· ·/ *n* a metal bar on the top of a car, to protect the people inside if the car turns over

roll call /ˈ· ·/ *n* [C;U] (the time for) an act of reading out an official list of names to see who is there: *They had a roll call to check that no one was missing.* | *I'll see you after roll call.*

rolled gold /ˌ· ˈ·/ also **gold plate‖filled gold** *AmE– n* [U] a thin covering of gold on the surface of another metal: *My watch is only rolled gold* (=has a covering of gold), *not solid gold.*

rolled oats /ˌ· ˈ·/ *n* [P] a kind of grain which has been rolled to make it thinner and so quicker to cook and easier to eat. Rolled oats are used for MUESLI and PORRIDGE.

roll·er /ˈrəʊlə^{r}/ *n* **1** a tube-shaped piece of wood, metal, hard rubber, etc., that rolls over and over, esp. one that is used **a** in a machine, for crushing, pressing, printing, etc. **b** for making the surface of grass or roads smooth: *a garden roller* –see also STEAMROLLER **c** for moving heavy things that have no wheels: *They pushed the boat down to the water on rollers.* **d** also **curler** for shaping: *She put her hair in rollers to make it curl.* –see picture at ROLL[1] **2** a rod round which something is rolled up: *a big map on a roller* **3** a long heavy wave on the coast: *The great Atlantic rollers surged in.* **4** a person or thing that rolls something

roller blind /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE* ‖ **blind, shade** *AmE– n* a piece of cloth or other material that can be rolled up and down over a window to reduce the amount of light entering – compare LOUVRE BLIND, VENETIAN BLIND and see picture at BLIND

roller coast·er /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a small railway with steep slopes and sharp curves, found in amusement parks: (fig.) *a roller coaster of successes and disasters*

roller dis·co /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a dance to recorded music at which people dance while wearing roller skates

roller skate /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a frame with four wheels for fitting under a shoe, or a shoe with wheels fixed on it, allowing the wearer to move quickly on a road or smooth surface: *a boy on roller skates* –compare ICE SKATE, SKATEBOARD; see PAIR (USAGE), and see picture at ROLL[1] –**roller-skate** *v* [I] –**roller-skater** *n*

roller tow·el /ˈ·· ˌ··/ *n* a cloth (TOWEL) that has its ends joined to form a circle so that a dry part can be pulled out for drying the hands on; mainly used in public places, not in ordinary houses –see picture at ROLL[1]

rol·lick·ing[1] /ˈrɒlɪkɪŋ‖ˈrɑː-/ *adj* [A] noisy and merry; BOISTEROUS: *We had a rollicking time.*

rollicking[2] *n BrE infml* an act of expressing angry disapproval of someone: *He arrived several hours late and got a right rollicking from the boss.*

roll·ing /ˈrəʊlɪŋ/ *adj* **1** [A] (of land) rising and falling in long gentle slopes: *rolling hills* **2** [A] happening continuously by stages rather than all at once: *rolling devolution of power to local government* **3 rolling in it** *infml* extremely rich: *He's bought another new car – he must be absolutely rolling in it!*

rolling mill /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a factory or machine in which metal is rolled out into large flat thin pieces

rolling pin /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a long tube-shaped piece of wood or other material for spreading pastry out flat and thin before cooking

►CULTURAL NOTE In humorous stories and jokes, a wife is sometimes shown hitting her husband with a rolling pin when he arrives home late or drunk.◄

rolling stock /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [U] everything on wheels that belongs to a railway, such as engines and carriages

rolling stone /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n infml* a person who travels around a lot and has no fixed address or responsibilities

Rolling Stone an American magazine that reports esp. on people and events in the popular music industry

Rolling Stones /ˌ·· ˈ·/, **The** also **Stones** *infml–* British popular music group which was formed in the 1960s and became one of the most successful ever. The group still sometimes plays together, and the best known member is Mick Jagger. –see colour picture on page 554

roll·mop /ˈrɒlmɒp‖ˈrɑːlmɑːp/ *n BrE* a piece of HERRING that has been rolled up and pickled (PICKLE[2])

roll of hon·our /ˌ· · ˈ··/ *BrE* ‖ **honor roll** *AmE–* *n* a list of the names of people who have earned praise, e.g. by passing an examination, showing bravery in battle, etc.

roll-on /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** a liquid that is put on, esp. onto the body, by means of a rolling ball in the neck of its container: *roll-on deodorants* **2** a woman's elastic GIRDLE that is pulled on in one piece, worn esp. formerly

roll-on roll-off /ˈ· · ˌ· ·/ also **ro-ro** *infml–* *adj* [A] *esp. BrE* allowing vehicles to drive on and off: *a roll-on roll-off car ferry*

roll·o·ver /ˈrəʊləʊvəʳ/ *adj AmE* (of an amount of money such as a PENSION or INVESTMENT) continuing to be invested (INVEST) or lent (LOAN) without stopping, to avoid financial PENALTY: *a rollover investment account which prevents tax demands on the interest*

Rolls-Royce /ˌrəʊlz ˈrɔɪs◂/ also **Rolls** *infml–* *n tdmk* **1** a company which produces very expensive and comfortable cars and is also well-known for aircraft engines: *That pop singer down the road has just bought a Rolls Royce!* **2** *infml* a product that is regarded as the highest quality example of a particular type of product: *This is the Rolls-Royce of video recorders–it has everything.*

roll·top desk /ˌrəʊltɒp ˈdesk‖-tɑːp-/ *n* a desk whose cover rolls back out of the way when it is opened

ro·ly-po·ly[1] /ˌrəʊli ˈpəʊli◂/ also **roly-poly pud·ding** /ˌ·· ·· ˈ··/– *n* [C;U] (in Britain) (a) sweet dish made of JAM that is rolled up in pastry and then baked or boiled

roly-poly[2] *adj infml humor* (of a person) fat and round: *a roly-poly little man*

ROM /rɒm‖rɑːm/ *n* read-only memory; a computer memory holding information that is continuously needed by the computer, such as the instructions for the language it uses. Information in this form cannot usually be changed or removed: *a ROM chip|circuit | a programmable ROM* –compare RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY; see also CD-ROM

ro·maine let·tuce /rəʊˌmeɪn ˈletʃs/ *n esp. AmE for* COS LETTUCE

ro·man /ˈrəʊmən/ *n* [U] (the ordinary style of) printing with upright letters like the ones used for printing these words –compare ITALICS

Roman *n, adj* (a citizen) **a** of ancient Rome or its EMPIRE: *the Roman emperors | Roman roads | a book about Roman history* **b** of the city of Rome –see also HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE, ROMAN EMPIRE

Roman



Roman al·pha·bet /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*] the alphabet beginning A, B, C, used in English and many other languages, as opposed to those of Greek, Arabic, the Cyrillic languages, etc.

Roman can·dle /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a tube-shaped FIREWORK that shoots out burning coloured stars

Roman Cath·o·lic /ˌ·· ˈ···◂/ also **Catholic**– *n, adj* (a member) of the branch of the Christian religion (the **Roman Catholic Church**) whose leader (the POPE) rules from Rome. Services usu. involve more ceremony and RITUAL than Protestant services. Roman Catholic priests are not allowed to marry: *Her family are Roman Catholic|are all Roman Catholics. | a Roman Catholic bishop* –compare PROTESTANT **–-licism** /ˌ·· ·ˈ····/ *n* [U]

ro·mance[1] /rəʊˈmæns, rə-/ *n* **1** [C] a love affair: *She thought it was going to be the big romance of her life, but he left her after only a few weeks.* **2** [U] a ROMANTIC[1] (2) quality: *the romance of life in the Wild West* **3** [C] a story of love, adventure, mystery, etc., often set in a distant time or place, whose events are happier or grander or more exciting than those of real life: *a romance about a king who married a beggar girl* **4** [U] love between a man and a woman, represented in Britain by boxes of chocolates, red roses, dinners by CANDLELIGHT, love letters, and walks by the light of the moon: *She went on holiday in search of romance.*

romance[2] *v* [I] *rare* **1** [(**about**)] to tell improbable stories **2** [(**with**)] to carry on a love affair

Romance *adj* [A] (of a language) having grown out of Latin, the language of ancient Rome: *French and Portuguese are Romance languages.*

Roman Em·pire /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the countries of Europe and the Near East which were ruled from Rome from around 44 BC until around AD 395, when it was split into two. The W Roman Empire lasted until around 476 and the E Roman Empire until the 15th century. The Romans are remembered for being brave, but rather cruel fighting men, who liked to watch men or animals and men fighting to the death as a form of entertainment. In particular they persecuted (PERSECUTE) people of the Christian religion and liked to watch them being killed by lions.

Ro·man·esque /ˌrəʊməˈnesk◂/ *adj* in the style of building with round arches and thick PILLARS that was common in Western Europe in about the 11th and 12th centuries

Ro·ma·ni·a /rəʊˈmeɪniə/ also **Rumania, Roumania**– *n* a country in SE Europe bordering on the Black Sea; capital Bucharest; population 23,152,000 (1989). It was formerly a COMMUNIST country, but in 1989 the people killed their leader, Nicolae Ceauşescu, in a violent REBELLION. **–-nian** *n, adj*

Roman law /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [U] CIVIL LAW (2)

Roman nose /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a nose that curves out near the top

Roman nu·me·ral /ˌ·· ˈ···/ *n* any of the signs (such as I, II, V, X, L, D) used for numbers in ancient Rome and sometimes now –compare ARABIC NUMERAL (1)

Romano- see WORD FORMATION

Roman road /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* a road built by the Romans. Roman roads are known for being very straight.

ro·man·tic[1] /rəʊˈmæntɪk, rə-/ *adj* **1** showing strong feelings of love: *"Tom always sends me red roses on my birthday." "How romantic!"* **2** dealing with or suggesting love, adventure: *writers of romantic fiction | The old abbey ruins look very romantic in the moonlight.* **3** *sometimes derog* showing a lot of imagination or impractical: *She has romantic notions about becoming a famous actress. | middle-class intellectuals with their romantic back-to-nature ideas* **4** [*no comp.*] (*often cap.*) (of art, literature, and music) marked by romanticism: *romantic poetry* – **~ally** /kli/ *adv*

romantic[2] *n* **1** a romantic person **2** (*often cap.*) a writer, painter, etc., whose work shows romanticism, or who was a member of the ROMANTIC MOVEMENT

ro·man·ti·cis·m /rəʊˈmæntʃɪzəm, rə-/ *n* [U] (*often cap.*) (in art and literature, esp. in the late 18th and early 19th centuries) the quality of admiring feeling rather than thought, and wild natural beauty rather than things made by people: *the romanticism of Wordsworth's poetry* –compare CLASSICISM (1,2), REALISM (2) **–-cist** *n*

ro·man·ti·cize also **-cise** *BrE* /rəʊˈmæntʃaɪz, rə-/ *v* [I;T] *derog* to make (something) seem more interesting or ROMANTIC[1] (2, 3) than it really is: *He tends to romanticize his past. | The film gives a rather romanticized picture of life during the war.*

Romantic Move·ment /ˌ·ˈ·· ˌ··/ [*the*] (in English and European poetry, literature, art, and music) a group of writers, artists, etc. who followed their feelings and emotions rather than LOGICAL thought or reason, and who preferred wild, natural beauty to things made by man. It first became popular in the late 18th century. –see ROMANTICISM

Ro·ma·ny /ˈrəʊməni‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* **1** [C] a GIPSY **2** [U] the language of the GIPSY people

Rome /rəʊm/ **1** the capital city of Italy, famous for its art, history, and centres of learning, religion, etc., and for containing the state within which the Pope lives, Vatican City –see also ROMULUS AND REMUS, TREATY OF ROME **2 Rome was not built in a day** a job cannot be done properly if it is done in a hurry **3 When in Rome, do as the Romans do** one should follow the customs of the people one is visiting or living with –see also **to fiddle while Rome burns** (FIDDLE)

Ro·me·o /ˈrəʊmiəʊ/ *n* **-os** *often humor or derog* a ROMANTIC male lover, esp. one who tries to attract all the women he meets in a romantic or sexual way: *the office Romeo | A Romeo solicitor masterminded a £3.8 million mortgage fraud to pay for his mistress and high life.*

Romeo and Ju·li·et /ˌ··· · ˈ···/ a play by William Shakespeare about the love of two people, Romeo and Juliet, from families who are enemies. They marry secretly, but they are prevented from being together and they both kill themselves. They are seen as typical examples of unfortunate, unhappy lovers. Many lines from the play are well known, esp. "Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?" which Juliet says while looking down from a BALCONY. —see colour picture on page 1146

Rom·mel /ˈrɒməl‖ˈrɑː-/, **Er·win** /ˈɜːwɪn‖ˈɜːr-/ (1891–1944) one of Hitler's generals in the Second World War, remembered for his CAMPAIGNS in North Africa and Egypt. He attempted with others to kill Hitler and failed, later taking his own life.

romp[1] /rɒmp‖rɑːmp/ *v* [I (ABOUT, AROUND)] **1** to play noisily and roughly with a lot of running and jumping: *We could hear the children romping (about) upstairs.* **2 romp home** (esp. of an animal) to win a race easily: *The favourite romped home.*

romp through *phr v* [T] *BrE infml* to succeed in, quickly and without effort: *She simply romped through her exams.*

romp[2] *n* **1** an occasion of romping **2** *infml* a piece of amusing entertainment with plenty of action: *The new film is an enjoyable romp, but with no intellectual content.*

Romp·er Room /ˈ·· ˌ·/ an American television programme of the 1950s and 1960s for young children

romp·ers /ˈrɒmpəz‖ˈrɑːmpərz/ also **romper suit** /ˈ·· ·/— *n* [P] a one-piece garment for babies combining a top and short trouser-like bottom: *a pair of rompers*

Rom·u·lus and Re·mus /ˌrɒmjʊləs ənd ˈriːməs‖ˌrɑːm-/ TWIN brothers in an ancient Roman story, nursed by a WOLF and brought up by a SHEPHERD. They started up the city of Rome, and Romulus later killed Remus after a quarrel. —see colour picture on page 423

Ro·nay /ˈrəʊneɪ/, **E·gon** /ˈiːgɒn‖-ɑːn/ a CHEF and writer of food and restaurant guides. He came to Britain from Hungary in 1946.

ron·do /ˈrɒndəʊ‖ˈrɑːn-/ *n* **-dos** a piece of music that repeats the main tune several times, and may sometimes form part of a longer musical work such as a CONCERTO

Ron·nie Scott's /ˌrɒni ˈskɒts‖ˌrɑːni ˈskɑːts/ a London club opened by Ronnie Scott in 1959 and well-known as a place where leading JAZZ musicians have always played —see also Ronnie SCOTT

Ron·stadt /ˈrɒnstæt‖ˈrɑːn-/, **Lin·da** /ˈlɪndə/ (1946–) an American singer of many different kinds of popular music

rönt·gen, Röntgen /ˈrɒntgən‖ˈrentgən/ *adj, n* ROENTGEN[1,2]

rood /ruːd/ *n old use or tech* a Christian cross or CRUCIFIX, usu. in a church

rood screen /ˈ· ·/ *n* a wooden or stone decorative wall in a Christian church which divides the part containing the singers (CHOIR) from the part where the other worshippers sit —see picture at CHURCH

roof[1] /ruːf‖ruːf, rʊf/ *n* **1** the outside covering on top of a building, closed vehicle, tent, etc.: *The rain's coming in — the roof must be leaking.* | *She carries her sailboard on the roof of her car.* | *roof tiles* | *a tiled/thatched roof* | *She and I can't live* **under the same roof.** (=in the same house) —compare CEILING (1), and see picture at CAR and HOUSE **2 a/no ˈroof over one's head** somewhere/nowhere to live: *I may not have a job, but at least I've got a roof over my head.* **3 go through the roof** *infml* **a** (of a price) to rise to a very high level **b** to express great anger **4 hit the roof** *AmE infml* to express great anger: *Dad will hit the roof when he finds out you've taken the car without asking first.* **5 raise the roof** *AmE infml* to complain loudly: *If I don't get my money back on this piece of worthless junk I'll raise the roof!* **6 the roof of one's mouth** the bony upper part of the inside of the mouth

roof[2] *v* [T (**with**)] to put a roof on or be a roof for: *a house roofed with slates*

roof sthg.↔**in/over** *phr v* [T] to enclose by putting a roof on (an open place): *We're going to roof in the yard to make a garage.*

roof gar·den /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a garden on a flat roof

roof·ing /ˈruːfɪŋ‖ˈruːf-, ˈrʊf-/ *n* [U] material for making or covering roofs

roofing felt /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* [U] material which is unrolled over supports to make a cheap roof that does not last many years. It is used on flat-roofed additions to houses and on SHEDS.

roof·less /ˈruːfləs‖ˈruːf-, ˈrʊf-/ *adj* with no roof

roof rack /ˈ· ·/ *n* a metal frame fixed on top of a car roof, for carrying things —see picture at RACK

roof·top /ˈruːftɒp‖ˈruːftɑːp, ˈrʊf-/ *n* a roof —see also **shout something from the rooftops** (SHOUT[1])

rook[1] /rʊk/ *n* a large black European bird like a CROW

rook[2] also **castle**— *n* (in the game of CHESS) a piece that can move any number of squares but only in a straight line parallel to a side of the board —see picture at CHESS

rook[3] *v* [T] *infml* to cheat (someone), esp. by charging a very high price or by winning money at card games: *Five pounds for that! You've been rooked!*

rook·e·ry /ˈrʊkəri/ *n* a collection of rooks' nests, high up in a group of trees

rook·ie /ˈrʊki/ *n AmE infml* **1** someone who is new to and has no experience of an activity, esp. a new soldier or policeman: *a rookie cop* **2** a player in his first year of professional sports: *As a rookie he batted 386.*

room[1] /ruːm, rʊm/ *n* **1** [C] (*often in comb.*) a division of a building, which has its own walls, floor, and CEILING and is usu. used for a particular purpose: *There are three rooms on the first floor and two on the top floor.* | *the bathroom/bedroom/dining room* | *a changing room* | *the billiard room* | *I'd like* **a single/a double room** (=for one/two people in a hotel) *with a bath.* | *I could hear a telephone in the next room/the adjoining room.* | *She locked the bedroom door.* | *Room 107* (=the people in this room in a hotel) *have asked for coffee.* —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** [U (**for**)] space that could be filled, or that is enough for the stated purpose: *There's room for three on the back seat.* | *Move along and* **make room for** *me!* | *A piano* **takes up** *a lot of* **room.** [+*to-v*] *There's hardly room to breathe in here!* | (fig.) *He needs room* (=a chance) *to develop his skill as a painter.* —see also ELBOWROOM, LEGROOM; see PLACE[1] (USAGE) **3** [U+**for**] the need or possibility for something to happen or be done; SCOPE: *His work isn't bad but there's still plenty of* **room for improvement.** | *I'm afraid the facts leave little room for doubt as to her guilt.* | *They want to reduce taxes, but the bad state of the economy has left them little* **room for manoeuvre.** —see PLACE[1] (USAGE) **4** [U] the people in a room: *The speaker held the room enthralled.* **5 no room at the inn** *humor* no room in a place, esp. one open to the public (from the Bible story in which Mary and Joseph are told that there is no room at the INN in Bethlehem): *We got to the cinema only ten minutes late, and already there was no room at the inn.* **6 not enough room to swing a cat** *infml* very little space **7 -roomed** /ruːmd, rʊmd/ having the stated number or size of rooms: *a six-roomed house* —see also ROOMS, COMMON ROOM, DRAWING ROOM, FRONT ROOM — **~ful** /fʊl/ *n* [(**of**)] : *a roomful of noisy children*

room[2] *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *AmE* to have lodgings; have a room or rooms: *He's rooming at our house/with us.*

room and board /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE for* BED AND BOARD

Room at the Top /ˌ· · · ˈ·/ a NOVEL by John Braine

room·er /ˈruːməʳ, ˈrʊm-/ *n AmE for* LODGER

rooming house /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE* a LODGING HOUSE

room·mate /ˈruːmˌmeɪt, ˈrʊm-/ *n* **1** *BrE* a person, not a member of one's family, with whom one shares a bedroom for a period of time, for example at school or on holiday: *Bill and Ben are roommates.* | *My roommate is very untidy.* **2** *AmE* a person with whom one shares a room, APARTMENT, or house —compare FLATMATE

rooms /ruːmz, rʊmz/ *n* [P] *old-fash, esp. BrE* a rented set of rooms in a building; LODGINGS

room ser·vice /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [U] **1** a service provided by a hotel, by which food, drink, etc., are sent up to a person's room: *Does this hotel have/provide room service?* **2** [+*sing./pl. v*] the people who provide this service: *She called room service and ordered some champagne.*

Room With a View /ˌ· · · ˈ·/, **A** a NOVEL by E M Forster

room·y /ˈruːmi, ˈrʊmi/ *adj apprec* with plenty of space inside it; SPACIOUS: *a roomy house/cupboard/car* **—-iness** *n* [U]

Roo·se·velt[1] /ˈrəʊzəvelt/, **El·ea·nor** /ˈelɪnəʳ/ (1884–1962) the

wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She was a writer who was involved in politics and social questions, esp. those concerning women and minorities (MINORITY(2))

Roosevelt², **Frank·lin Del·a·no** /ˈfræŋklɪ̯ən ˈdelənəʊ/ (1882–1945) the 32nd president of the US serving from 1933 to 1945. He was president during the Great Depression and was responsible for his country's efforts during the Second World War, during which he was elected for the third and fourth times. –see picture on page 752

Franklin D. Roosevelt



►CULTURAL NOTE Roosevelt is the only president to have served more than two TERMS (= periods of time in power). He was a popular and respected president, and many people listened to his "**fireside chats**" on the radio, in which he told people what was happening in the country and what he was doing. He was the first president to appear on television. Roosevelt was often called **FDR**.◄

Roosevelt³, The·o·dore /ˈθiːədɔːr/ (**Teddy**) (1858–1919) the 26th president of the US, from 1901 to 1909. Roosevelt became famous during a war between the US and Spain when he went to Cuba and formed the ROUGH RIDERS. He was a popular president and people remember that he had a large MOUSTACHE and said things were "bully" when he liked them.

roost¹ /ruːst/ *n* **1** a bar, branch, etc., on which birds settle at night, esp. one for hens in a HEN HOUSE **2 come home to roost** (of a bad or unwise action) to have a bad effect on the doer, esp. after a period of time: *Their lack of financial planning is now coming home to roost.* –see also **rule the roost** (RULE²)

roost² *v* [I] (of a bird) to sit and sleep for the night

roost·er /ˈruːstər/ *n esp. AmE for* COCK¹ (1)

root¹ /ruːt/ *n* **1** [*often pl.*] the part of a plant that grows down into the soil in search of food and water: *Pull the plant up by the|its roots.* | *Do you think the new rosebush has* **taken root?** (=started to grow) | (fig.) *How did these strange ideas take root?* (=become established) –compare STEM¹ (1) **2** the part of a tooth, hair, fingernail, etc., that holds it to the rest of the body –see picture at TEETH **3** [**(of)**] the fact or condition from which something begins, or by which something is caused; origin: *Let's try to* **get to the root of** *this problem.* | *Unhappiness is the* **root cause** *of his illness.* | *His illness* **has its roots in** *unhappiness.* **4** [**(of)**] *tech* (in MATHEMATICS) a number that when multiplied by itself a stated number of times gives another stated number: *2 is the fourth root of 16* (because 2 x 2 x 2 x 2=16) –see also CUBE ROOT, SQUARE ROOT **5** [**(of)**] *tech* the base part of a word, from which it originally comes or to which other parts can be added: *The Latin word "videre", meaning "to see", is the root of the English words video, vista, vision, visionary, and revision.* –compare STEM¹ (4) **6 root and branch** *fml* (of something bad that must be got rid of) thoroughly: *This evil system must be destroyed root and branch.* –see also ROOTS, GRASS ROOTS

root² *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) form roots: *Do roses root easily?* **2** [I+*adv|prep*] also **roo·tle** /ˈruːtl/ *BrE–* (esp. of a pig) to search for food by digging with the nose **3** [I+*adv|prep*] *infml* to search for something by turning things over: *Who's been rooting about among my papers?* –see also ROOTED

root for sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] *esp. AmE* to give strong support to (someone who is competing): *Good luck – we'll all be rooting for you.*

root sthg.↔**out** *phr v* [T] **1** to destroy or get rid of completely (something bad); ERADICATE: *This disease is the scourge of Africa, and scientists doubt if it can ever be altogether rooted out.* | *a promise to root out corrupt officials* –see also UPROOT **2** *infml* to find by searching: *I'll try and root out something suitable for you to wear.*

root beer /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] (esp. in the US) a sweet gassy non-alcoholic drink made from the roots of various plants

root bound /ˈ· ·/ *adj AmE for* POTBOUND

root cel·lar /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n AmE* an underground room, usu. away from the house, used for keeping vegetables such as potatoes and CARROTS

root crop /ˈ· ·/ also **root vege·ta·ble** /ˈ· ˌ···/– *n* a vegetable grown for its roots, such as potatoes or CARROTS

root·ed /ˈruːtɪ̯d/ *adj* **1** [F(**to**)] fixed as if by roots: *He stood* **rooted to the spot** *in terror|fascination.* **2** (of an idea, principle, etc.) firmly fixed and unchangeable: *(deep-) rooted prejudices* **3** [F+**in**] having as its origin or cause: *an economic policy that is rooted in Marxist theory*

root·less /ˈruːtləs/ *adj* having no home or sense of belonging anywhere – ~**ness** *n* [U]

roots /ruːts/ *n* [P] **1** (one's connection with and feeling of belonging to) a place, esp. the place in which one was born and brought up: *Her roots are in Scotland where she was born.* | *We've been here a year now, and we're beginning to* **put down (new) roots.** (=make new friends, join in local activities, etc.) –see also GRASS ROOTS **2** (one's connection with and feeling of belonging to) a family: *She's searching for her roots by tracing her family tree.*

Roots an American television programme shown in 1977 which followed the history of a black family from Kunta Kinte, a man born in Africa and caught to be a slave in the US, through his children and their children until the Civil War. The programme, which was based on Alex Haley's book about his family, was on every night for a week and was very popular. Several years later another programme followed the family from the Civil War until the present time.

rope¹ /rəʊp/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a piece of) strong thick cord made by twisting together threads of cotton, HEMP, etc.: *They tied their prisoner up with ropes|with a piece of rope.* | *to coil up a rope* –compare STRING¹ (1) **2** [C+**of**] a fat twisted string, esp. of the stated jewels: *a rope of pearls* **3** [*the*+S] hanging as a punishment **4 give someone enough rope to hang himself/herself** to give a bad or foolish person freedom of action in the hope that they will cause their own ruin or failure in the end **5 give someone (plenty of) rope** to allow someone (plenty of) freedom to act –see also ROPES, TIGHTROPE, **jump rope** (JUMP), **money for old rope** (MONEY)

rope² *v* [T] **1** [+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to tie with a rope: *He roped his horse to a nearby tree.* | *Make sure you're properly roped together before you begin to climb.* **2** *esp. AmE* to catch (an animal) with a rope; LASSO

rope sbdy.↔**in** *phr v* [T] *infml* to persuade or force (esp. someone who is unwilling) to help in one's plans or join an activity: *I've been roped in to help sell the tickets.*

rope sthg.↔**off** *phr v* [T] to separate or enclose (an area) with ropes: *They've roped off one end of the room.*

rope up *phr v* [I] (of two or more mountain climbers) to get fastened together with the same rope: *We'd better rope up for this difficult bit.*

rope lad·der /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a ladder made of two long ropes connected by cross pieces of wood, rope, or metal

ropes /rəʊps/ *n* [*the*+P] **1** the rope fence that surrounds a sports ring, esp. a BOXING ring **2** *infml* the rules, customs, and ways of operating in some place or activity: *I've been to China before so I* **know the ropes;** *can I help you?* | *Shirley's only joined the firm today, so will you* **show her the ropes?**

rop·y , ropey /ˈrəʊpi/ *adj BrE infml* in bad condition or of bad quality: *We stayed in a really ropy hotel.* | *I'm feeling a bit ropy* (=not very well) *this morning.* –**-iness** *n* [U]

Roque·fort /ˈrɒkfɔːr‖ˈrəʊkfərt/ *n* [U] a strong French cheese with blue lines in it, made from sheep's milk

Ror·schach test /ˈrɔːʃæk test‖ˈrɔːr-/ *n* a method of testing someone's mind and character by making them say what various irregular spots of ink remind them of

ro·sa·ry /ˈrəʊzəri/ *n* **1** [C] a string of BEADS (=small decorative balls) used esp. by Roman Catholics for counting prayers **2** [*the*] (*often cap.*) a Roman Catholic religious practice that consists of repeating the set of prayers that are counted in this way

rose¹ /rəʊz/ *past tense of* RISE

rose² *n* **1** [C] (the usu. red, pink, white, or yellow sweet-smelling flower of) any of various wild or cultivated bushes with strong prickly stems. In Britain, it is thought of as a typically English flower: *He sent her a*

dozen red roses on their anniversary. | *a rosebed* (=where roses grow) | *a rose bush* | *rose petals* —see picture at FLOWER **2** [U] a pale to dark pink colour **3** [C] a circular piece of metal with holes in it that is fitted to the end of a pipe or WATERING CAN for watering gardens **4 a rose by any other name would smell as sweet** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*. People use the phrase when saying that the nature of a thing is important, not what it is called. **5 a rose is a rose is a rose** *quote* a slightly changed phrase from a poem by Gertrude Stein, often changed further and used when someone is saying that there can only be one kind of a particular thing: *I don't care whether he's unhappy at home—a bully is a bully is a bully, and he shouldn't be allowed to make others miserable!* **6 be not all roses** *infml* (of a job, situation, etc.) to include some unpleasant things: *A lot of people envy the royal family, but their life isn't all roses, you know.* **7 come up roses** [*usu. in progressive forms*] to happen or develop in the best possible way —see also BED OF ROSES, WARS OF THE ROSES

rose[3] *adj* (*usu. in comb.*) (of a colour) pale to dark pink: *rose pink*

Rose, Pete /piːt/ (1942–) an American BASEBALL player and team manager who in the 1990s was found to have illegally BET (put money on the result of a game) on baseball games

ro·sé /ˈrəʊzeɪ‖rəʊˈzeɪ/ *n* [U] a light pink wine

Rose·anne /rəʊˈzæn/ a humorous American television show about a WORKING-CLASS family in which the actress Roseanne Arnold appears as the main character

Roseanne



ro·se·ate /ˈrəʊziɪ̯t/ *adj lit* pink: *the roseate hues of the evening sky*

Rose Bowl /ˈ· ˌ·/ *n* a FOOTBALL (2) game held on January 1st each year in Pasadena, California, between the winners of the two main college CONFERENCES

rose·bud /ˈrəʊzbʌd/ *n* the young tightly rolled-up flower (BUD[1]) of a rose before it opens: *She's as pretty as a rosebud.*

rose-col·oured /ˈ· ··/ also **rose-tinted**– *adj* **look at/see/view the world through rose-coloured spectacles/glasses** *usu. derog* to see the world, life, etc., as better and more pleasant than they really are

rose hip /ˈ· ·/ *n* the red fruit of some kinds of rose bush, used in medicines and juices

rose·ma·ry /ˈrəʊzmə̯ri‖-meri/ *n* [U] a low bush whose sweet-smelling leaves are used in cooking

Rosemary's Ba·by /ˌ··· ˈ··/ a NOVEL by American writer Ira Levin, made into a film in 1968, in which a man agrees to let Satan be the father of a baby with his wife

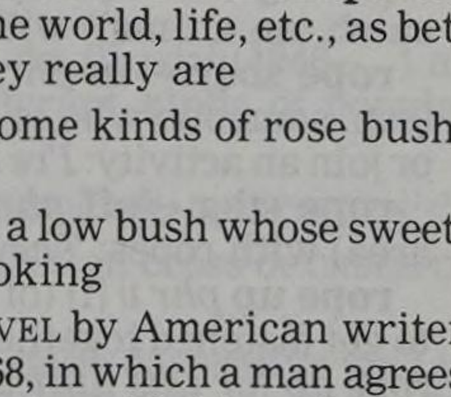
Rose Pa·rade /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* a PARADE held every year in Pasadena, California, on January 1st with many large vehicles covered with flowers, marching bands, and horse riders. The parade is shown on television all over the US.

Roses, War of the see WARS OF THE ROSES

Ro·set·ta Stone /rəʊˈzetə ˌstəʊn/ [*the*] the stone, found in Egypt in 1799, on which was written the passage that provided the key to translating HIEROGLYPHICS

ro·sette /rəʊˈzet/ *n* **1** a bunch of RIBBONS (=narrow silk bands) made up in the form of a broad flat flower and worn for decoration or as a sign of something: *She won a rosette in the riding competition.* **2** a shape like this in stone or wood, cut on a building as a decoration

rosette



rose·wa·ter /ˈrəʊzˌwɔːtəʳ‖-ˌwɔː-, -ˌwɑː-/ *n* [U] a liquid made from roses and used for its pleasant smell

rose win·dow /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* a circular decorative window in a church, usu. containing a pattern of small divisions spreading out from a centre and filled in with coloured glass

rose·wood /ˈrəʊzwʊd/ *n* [U] a valuable hard dark red tropical wood, used for making fine furniture

Rosh Ha·sha·nah , Rosh Hashana /ˌrɒʃ həˈʃɑːnə‖ˌrəʊʃ həˈʃəʊnə/ *n* the first day of the Jewish new year, a holy day, usu. beginning some time in September

Ro·si·cru·cians /ˌrəʊzɪ̯ˈkruːʃə̯nz/ *n* [P] a 17th century secret society whose members claimed that they had SPIRITUAL knowledge from studying science. They still advertise for new members in the US, and are now based in San Jose, California.

Rosie the Riv·et·er /ˌrəʊzi ðə ˈrɪvɪ̯təʳ/ (a name invented to represent) any of the American women who worked in arms or aircraft factories during the Second World War

ros·in[1] /ˈrɒzɪ̯n‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* [U] RESIN, esp. as used in a solid form on the strings of musical instruments

rosin[2] *v* [T] to rub with rosin

Ross /rɒs‖rɔːs/, **Bet·sy** /ˈbetsi/ (1752–1836) the woman who is supposed to have made the first American flag

Ross, Diana (1944–) an American popular music singer who was with the group The Supremes until 1970

Ross and Crom·ar·ty /ˌrɒs ənd ˈkrɒmə̯ti‖ˌrɔːs ənd ˈkrɑːmə̯rti/ a former COUNTY in northern Scotland, now part of Highland REGION

Ros·set·ti /rəˈzeti‖rəʊ-/, **Chris·ti·na Geor·gi·na** /krɪˈstiːnə dʒɔːˈdʒiːnə‖-dʒɔːr-/ (1830–94) an English poet whose poems include *Goblin Market*

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel (1828–82) an English poet and artist who helped to form the PRE-RAPHAELITES

Ros·si·ni /rɒˈsiːni‖rəʊ-/, **Gio·ac·chi·no** /ˌdʒəʊəˈkiːnəʊ/ (1792–1868) an Italian musician who wrote many OPERAS, including *The Barber of Seville*

ros·ter /ˈrɒstəʳ‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* a list of people's names, esp. giving the jobs they have to do or the times at which they have to do them: *a duty roster*

ros·trum /ˈrɒstrəm‖ˈrɑː-/ *n* **-trums** *or* **-tra** /trə/ a raised place (PLATFORM) for a public speaker, music CONDUCTOR, etc.

ros·y /ˈrəʊzi/ *adj* **1** *apprec* (esp. of the human skin) pink and healthy-looking: *rosy cheeks* **2** giving hope, esp. without good reason: *He painted a rosy picture of the company's prospects.* (=described them in a very hopeful way, perhaps without good cause) **-iness** *n* [U]

rot[1] /rɒt‖rɑːt/ *v* **-tt-** [I;T (AWAY, DOWN)] to (cause to) decay by a gradual natural process; (cause to) go bad: *The meat will rot if it isn't kept cool.* | *The damp has rotted (away) the roof beams.* | *rotting vegetables* | *You can rot garden waste down to make a fine compost.* | (fig.) *They left him to rot in prison for twenty years.* | (fig.) *Too much television rots your brain.* —see also ROTTEN

rot[2] *n* **1** [U] the process of rotting or an area of rotten growth; decay: *an old hollow tree full of rot* —see also DRY ROT **2** [*the*+S] *infml* the process by which everything goes wrong or gets worse: *He thinks the* **rot set in** (=started) *when the country was opened up to tourists.* | *It was tourism that really* **started the rot.** | *Their profits are going down and down, and they don't know how to* **stop the rot.** **3** [U] *BrE old-fash infml* foolish remarks or ideas: *Don't talk such rot!*

ro·ta /ˈrəʊtə/ *n esp. BrE* a list giving details of things which are to be done in a particular order, esp. by different people taking turns: *We organized the cleaning on a rota basis.* (=according to a list) | *to draw up a rota*

Ro·tar·i·an /rəʊˈteə̯riən/ *n* a member of the Rotary Club

ro·ta·ry /ˈrəʊtə̯ri/ *adj* **1** also **rotatory**– (of movement) turning round a fixed point, like a wheel: *the rotary movement of the blades* **2** being or having a moving part that does this: *a rotary lawn mower* | *a rotary clothes line*

Rotary Club /ˈ··· ˌ·/ also **Rotary In·ter·na·tion·al** /ˌ··· ··ˈ···/– [*the*] an organization of men from different businesses in a town who work together for the good of the town, often by raising money for the poor and sick

rotary til·ler /ˌ··· ˈ··/ *n AmE for* DISC HARROW

ro·tate /rəʊˈteɪt‖ˈrəʊteɪt/ *v* [I;T] **1** to (cause to) turn round a fixed point or AXIS: *The Earth rotates once every 24 hours.* | *a rotating mirror* —compare REVOLVE **2** to (cause to) take turns or come round in regular order: *We rotate the crops, sowing wheat one year, sugar beet the*

Scenes from Literature

***Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe**
After his ship is destroyed, Robinson Crusoe has to live on a desert island. At first he thinks he is alone, but one day he finds a black man living there who he calls Man Friday because he meets him on a Friday.

***Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne.**
Phileas Fogg and his servant Passepartout use many different forms of transport in their attempt to travel around the world in eighty days.

ne Grapes of Wrath
y John Steinbeck
A poor American family have to leave their land because it is too dry for farming and travel to look for work during the Depression.

***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain**
Tom Sawyer and his friend Huckleberry Finn

***Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë**
Wuthering Heights is the story of the passionate love between Cathy and Heathcliffe, set in the wild countryside of the Yorkshire Moors.

Oliver Twist
by Charles Dickens
There is a famous scene where Oliver asks for more food by saying 'Please, sir, I want some more' because he is still hungry.

'O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?'

***(Romeo and Juliet*, Act II, Scene II)**

The balcony scene from the play *Romeo and Juliet*

'Alas, poor Yorick! – I knew him, Horatio'

(*Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*, Act V, Scene I)

Hamlet picks up the skull of his dead friend Yorick

'Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn and cauldron bubble'

(*Macbeth*, Act IV, Scene I)

The three witches who use magic to tell Macbeth what is going to happen in the future.

'Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more'

(*Henry V*, Act III, Scene I)

King Henry V leading his soldiers into battle

'Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears
I come to bury
Caesar, not to praise him'

(*Julius Caesar*, Act III, Scene II)

Mark Antony speaking to the crowd after Caesa has been killed

next, and so on. | *The chairmanship of the department rotates annually.*

ro·ta·tion /rəʊˈteɪʃən/ *n* **1** [U] the action of rotating: *the rotation of the Earth on its axis* | *The rotation of crops keeps the soil healthy and fertile.* **2** [C] one complete turn round a fixed point **3 in rotation** (of events) coming round one after the other in regular order: *The seasons follow each other in rotation.*

ro·ta·to·ry /rəʊˈteɪtərɪ‖ˈrəʊtətɔːri/ *adj* ROTARY (1)

ROTC /ˈrɒtsi‖ˈrɑːt-/ [*the*] *AmE* Reserve Officer Training Corps; a programme run by the American army to train students at colleges and university in military leadership. The army will often pay for the student's education in return for two to four years of service in the army after finishing university. During the 1960s students tried to get ROTC programmes to stop running on CAMPUS, but in the 1980s many students saw the ROTC as a good way of getting an education at a low cost.

rote /rəʊt/ *n* [U] *fml* repeated study using memory rather than understanding. Learning by rote is not fashionable in British schools: *to learn poetry* **by rote** | *rote-learning*

rot·gut /ˈrɒtgʌt‖ˈrɑːt-/ *n* [U] *sl* strong cheap alcohol that is bad for the stomach

Roth /rɒθ‖rɔːθ/, **Philip** (1933–) an American writer, whose most famous book *Portnoy's Complaint* deals humorously with middle-class Jewish life in the US

Roth·ko /ˈrɒθkəʊ‖ˈrɑːθ-/, **Mark** (1903–70) an American painter famous esp. for paintings of squares and RECTANGLES

Roth·man's /ˈrɒθmənz‖ˈrɔːθ-, ˈrɑːθ-/ *tdmk* the name of a type of cigarette

Roths·child /ˈrɒθs-tʃaɪld‖ˈrɔːθs-/, **N M** the London MERCHANT BANK

ro·tis·ser·ie /rəʊˈtɪsəri/ *n* an apparatus for cooking meat by turning it over and over on a bar (SPIT[3] (1)) under direct heat

ro·tor /ˈrəʊtəʳ/ *n* **1** a part of a machine that turns round on a fixed point: *The giant turbine rotors began to turn.* **2** the system of blades that raise a HELICOPTER into the air by turning round and round

Ro·to-root·er /ˈrəʊtəʊ ˌruːtəʳ/ *tdmk* (an American company which makes) a machine that unblocks pipes and DRAINS by use of a power-driven, quickly turning snake-like tube. Because of the unusual nature of the machine it is often the subject of jokes: *My dentist doesn't use a drill, he uses a Roto-rooter.* | *Clogged drain? Call Roto-rooter!* (advertisement)

ro·to·va·tor /ˈrəʊtəveɪtəʳ/ *BrE* ‖ **Ro·to·til·ler** /ˈrəʊtəʊˌtɪləʳ/ *AmE– n tdmk* a tool with blades that turn round to break up esp. soil

rot·ten /ˈrɒtn‖ˈrɑːtn/ *adj* **1** decayed; gone bad: *rotten eggs|fruit* | *a rotten branch* **2** *infml* nasty, unpleasant, or unsatisfactory: *What rotten weather!* | *Paul's a rotten driver.* | *What a rotten thing to do to her!* **3 feel rotten** *infml* to feel ill or unhappy: *I feel rotten this morning; it must have been something I ate.* | *I felt rotten about having to sack him, but I had no alternative.* **4 one rotten apple spoils the barrel** one bad person or thing can have a bad effect on others which are good but which may easily be spoilt **5 Something is rotten in the state of Denmark** *quote* a phrase from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*, often used in speaking of a bad state of affairs in any country: *The number of violent crimes in Britain is on the increase; clearly, something is rotten in the state of Denmark.* –~**ly** *adv* –~**ness** *n* [U]

rotten bor·ough /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* (in Britain before 1832) any of a number of places (BOROUGHS) which elected a Member of Parliament although they had very few voters

rot·ter /ˈrɒtəʳ‖ˈrɑː-/ *n BrE old-fash infml* a worthless or dishonourable person

Rot·ter·dam /ˈrɒtədæm‖ˈrɑːtər-/ a city in the W Netherlands, one of the world's largest and most modern ports

rott·wei·ler /ˈrɒtwaɪləʳ‖ˈrɑːt-/ *n* a German breed of dog which has a large body and head and very strong muscles, used to guard property, people, or (originally) animals. Rottweilers became feared by many people after a series of violent attacks on adults and children in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In Britain rottweilers must now be registered (REGISTER[2] (1)) and wear a covering around their mouth when outside to prevent them from biting. –see picture at DOG

ro·tund /rəʊˈtʌnd/ *adj fml or humor* (of a person) fat and round –~**ity** *n*

ro·tun·da /rəʊˈtʌndə/ *n* a round building or hall, esp. one with a DOME (=rounded bowl-shaped roof)

rou·ble , ruble /ˈruːbəl/ *n* (a coin or note worth) the standard unit of money in the former USSR

rou·é /ˈruːeɪ‖ruːˈeɪ/ *n old use* a RAKE[3]

rouge[1] /ruːʒ/ *n* [U] a red substance used for colouring the cheeks to give a healthy appearance, esp. by women and actors

rouge[2] *v* [T] to put rouge on (one's face)

rough[1] /rʌf/ *adj* **1** having an uneven surface; not smooth: *The rough road made the car vibrate.* | *A cat's tongue is rough.* | *rough hands* **2** (of weather, the sea, or a sea journey) stormy and violent; not calm: *rough winds* | *We had a very rough crossing to France.* **3** *usu. derog* (esp. of a person or their behaviour) showing a lack of gentleness, good manners, or consideration, and perhaps a readiness to use force or violence: *a rough boy* | *He's a rough-looking character.* | *They complained of rough handling by the police.* | *a rough neighbourhood* (=full of rough people) | *Don't be so rough with that box – it's got eggs in it.* **4** (of a sound) not gentle or tuneful: *a rough voice* **5** done or made without attention to detail or exactness; APPROXIMATE: *a rough translation* | *She did a rough drawing to show me what she meant.* | *Could you give me* **a rough idea** *when you'll be back?* (=tell me, without needing to be too exact) | *At a rough guess I'd say he was about 45.* –see also ROUGH PAPER **6** (of food and living conditions) not delicate or comfortable; simple: *Life was rough out in the American West in the last century.* | *a rough country wine* **7** [**(on)**] *infml* unfortunate and/or unfair: *She's had a very rough time recently.* | *My boss realized I was unprepared for the meeting, and gave me a bit of* **a rough ride.** (=a difficult time) | *It's a bit rough on* (=unfortunate for) *him, losing his job.* **8** [F] *infml* unwell: *I'm feeling pretty rough; I think I'll go to bed.* **9 rough and ready** simple and without comfort: *The living conditions in the camp were a bit rough and ready.* **10 the rough side of one's tongue** *old-fash infml* an act of speaking angrily to someone: *You'll get the rough side of my tongue if you're cheeky again.* –see also ROUGHLY –~**ness** *n* [U]

rough[2] *n* **1** [(*the*) U] the uneven ground with long grass on a GOLF course: *I lost my ball in the rough.* –see picture at GOLF **2** [C] *old use* a violent noisy man: *A crowd of young roughs was fighting at the football game.* **3** [C] a quick drawing not showing all details **4 in rough** in an incomplete, untidy, or undetailed form: *Write it out in rough first and then copy it out neatly.* **5 take the rough with the smooth** to accept bad things as well as good things without complaining

rough[3] *v* **rough it** *infml* to live in a simple and not very comfortable way: *Living in a tent's not for me – I don't like roughing it.*

rough sthg. ↔ **in** *phr v* [T] to put in (a few practice lines in a drawing): *I'll just rough in the shape of the head and you can paint the sky round it.*

rough sthg. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T] to make (a first plan of a drawing or piece of writing): *I'll just rough out the whole picture and you can do the details.*

rough sbdy. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to attack roughly, usu. as a threat

rough[4] *adv* **1** *BrE* in uncomfortable conditions, esp. out of doors: *When you're a tramp, you get used to* **sleeping rough.** **2** not in a gentle way; using (too much) force: *Those boys certainly play rough!* –see also ROUGHLY

rough·age /ˈrʌfɪdʒ/ *n* [U] FIBRE (=string-like vegetable material) contained in food, that does not actually feed the eater, but helps the bowels to work: *Wholemeal bread provides valuable roughage.*

rough-and-tum·ble /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [C;U] (an occasion of) noisy fighting: *The kids were having a bit of a rough-and-tumble when one of them banged his head.* | (fig.) *the rough-and-tumble of politics*

rough·cast /ˈrʌfkɑːst‖-kæst/ *n* [U] a rough surface on the outside of a building, made of PLASTER mixed with little stones or broken shells –**roughcast** *adj* [A]

rough di·a·mond /ˌ· ˈ···/ *BrE*‖**diamond in the rough**

AmE– n infml a person who has a kind and generous nature and/or great ability, but whose outward manner is rather rough

rough·en /ˈrʌfən/ *v* [I;T] to make or become rough: *Constant washing of clothes had roughened her hands.*

rough-hewn /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* (of wood or stone) roughly cut; not made smooth: *a wall of rough-hewn blocks*

rough·house[1] /ˈrʌfhaʊs/ *n* [S] *BrE old-fash infml* a noisy disorderly fight, not usu. with weapons

roughhouse[2] *v* [I] *AmE* to play roughly, to WRESTLE: *The children were roughhousing in the living room and knocked over a lamp.*

rough·ly /ˈrʌfli/ *adv* **1** in a rough manner: *He pushed her roughly away.* | *"Get out!" he said roughly.* **2** about; not exactly: *There were roughly 200 people there.* | *How many people, roughly?* | *Roughly speaking, I'd say 200.* | *The cost of the two systems is roughly equal/roughly the same.*

rough·neck /ˈrʌfnek/ *n* **1** a member of the team of men who make or operate an oil well **2** *infml, esp. AmE* a rough bad-tempered person

rough pa·per /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* [U] paper (to be) used for making an incomplete or undetailed drawing, piece of writing, etc.

Rough Rid·ers /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n* [P] an American CAVALRY group led by Teddy Roosevelt and made up of COWBOYS and RANCHERS which fought in a war against Spain in 1898

rough·shod /ˈrʌfʃɒd‖-ʃɑːd/ *adv* see **ride roughshod over** (RIDE[1])

rough sleep·er /ˈ· ˌ··/ *n BrE* a homeless person who sleeps out on the street

rough stuff /ˈ· ·/ *n* [U] *infml* violence; violent behaviour

rou·lette /ruːˈlet/ *n* [U] a game of chance in which a small ball is spun round a moving wheel and falls into a hole marked with a number —see also RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Rou·ma·ni·a /ruːˈmeɪniə/ *n* ROMANIA

round[1] /raʊnd/ *adj* **1** shaped like a circle; circular: *a round plate/table* | *The little boy's eyes grew round with delight.* **2** shaped like a ball; SPHERICAL: *The Earth is round, not flat.* **3** (of a part of the body) fat and curved: *the child's round red cheeks* **4** [A] (of a number) full; complete: *a round dozen* **5 in round figures** (of a number) not expressed exactly, but to the nearest 10, 100, 1000, etc., without paying attention to small amounts: *The car cost £9878 – that's £10,000 in round figures.* —see also ROUNDLY —**~ness** *n* [U]

round[2] ‖ usu. **around** *AmE– adv* **1** with a circular movement; (as if) spinning in a circle: *The Earth turns round once in 24 hours.* | *The wheels went* **round and round.** | *His head was spinning round with all the excitement.* | (fig.) *Your birthday will soon come round again.* | (fig.) *This plant flowers* **all (the) year round.** (=during the whole year) **2** in a circular position or arrangement; surrounding a central point: *The field has a fence all round.* | *The children gathered round to hear the story.* | *The tree trunk is two metres round.* **3** to various places: *They travel round together.* **4** to a particular place: *They invited us round* (=to their house) *for drinks.* | *He came round (to our place) at 6.00 and we went out together.* **5** all over the place; in or into all parts; everywhere or to everyone in a place: *Hand/Pass round the wine glasses.* | *Let me show you round.* | *A nasty rumour has been going round.* | *Let's go into the palace and have a look round.* | *There weren't enough books* **to go round.** (=enough for each person to have one) **6** so as to face the other way or the stated way: *Turn the picture round to face the wall.* | *He's got his hat on* **the wrong way round.** (=with the back of the hat in front) **7** (of a journey) not going the straightest way: *Let's walk/drive round by the park instead of going straight home.* **8 round about** *infml* a little bit more or less than; about: *It'll cost you round about £300.* —see also ROUNDABOUT **9 the other/opposite way round** in the opposite order: *The dog didn't bite the boy. It was the other way round – the boy bit the dog!* —see also ALL ROUND

round[3] ‖ usu. **around** *AmE– prep* **1** with a circular movement about (a central point): *The Earth goes round the sun.* | *Drake sailed (right/all) round the world and came back to England.* **2** in a circular position on all or some sides of (a central point): *We sat round the table.* | *Tie the belt round your waist.* | *Put something round your shoulders – it's cold.* **3** into all parts of; all over (a place): *Have a look round the shop.* | *Let me show you round the castle.* | *They danced round and round the room.* | *We travelled round Europe.* **4** to or at the other side of, not going straight but changing direction: *He disappeared round the corner.* | *The car's round the back of the house.* **5** in the neighbourhood of; near (a place): *Do you live round here?* **6** a little bit more or less than; about: *It'll cost somewhere round £50.* **7** *BrE nonstandard* to; round to: *I'm just going round the shops for some sugar.* —see also **round the bend** (BEND[2]), **around/round the clock** (CLOCK[1])

▷ USAGE Some people use **round** (*adv* and *prep*) or **about** (*adv*) while others, especially Americans, use **around.** People who use both often make a difference between **round** for "circular movement" or "measurement": *He turned* **round.** | *a tree five feet* **round,** and **around** meaning "in a general area" or "moving to different places": *He lives somewhere* **around.** | *I was just walking* **around.** Compare: *The spaceship travelled right round the world in 40 minutes* (=in one complete circle) and *I travelled all* **around** *the world for a few years* (=all over the place).◁

round[4] *n* **1** [(**of**)] a number or set of connected events: *We hope the next round of arms-limitation talks will be more successful.* | *Life was one continual round of parties.* **2** a regular journey to a number of houses, offices, etc., in a town: *She does a paper round.* (=delivers newspapers to houses) —see also MILK ROUND, ROUNDS, ROUNDSMAN **3** a number of esp. alcoholic drinks bought for everyone present: *to buy a round of drinks* | *What'll you have? It's my round.* (=I'm paying) **4** (in GOLF) a complete game including all the holes **5 a** (in BOXING, WRESTLING, etc.) any of the periods of fighting in a match, separated by short rests: *He was knocked out in the second round.* | *a 12-round contest* **b** (in tennis, football, etc.) any of the stages in a competition: *Becker will play Cash in the next round of the US Open Championships.* **6** one single shot from a gun: *He fired round after round.* | *I've only got two rounds (of ammunition) left.* (=bullets for two shots) **7** [+**of**] a long burst: *Let's have a big round of applause for that very fine performance!* **8** *esp. BrE* **a** a SANDWICH made with two whole pieces of bread: *I'll have two rounds of cheese sandwiches.* **b** one whole piece of bread: *two rounds of toast* **9** [(**of**)] something that has a circular shape: *Put a little round of butter on each steak.* **10** a song for three or four singers, in which each sings the same tune, one starting a line after another has just finished it **11 the/one's daily round** the/one's duties that must be done every day: *the daily round of cooking and cleaning* —see also THEATRE IN THE ROUND

round[5] *v* [T] **1** to go round: *She rounded the corner at top speed.* | *We rounded the cape and sailed for home.* **2** to make round: *He rounded his lips as if about to whistle.*

round sthg. ↔ **down** *phr v* [T (**to**)] to reduce (an exact figure) to the nearest whole number: *If your income is £12,386.46, it will be rounded down to £12,386 for tax purposes.* —compare ROUND **off** (2), ROUND **up** (2)

round sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** [(**by, with**)] to end suitably and satisfactorily: *We rounded off the meal with some brandy.* **2** to change (an exact figure) into the nearest whole number —compare ROUND **down,** ROUND **up** (2)

round on sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to turn and attack, angrily and unexpectedly: *The lion suddenly rounded on the hunters.* | *Then for no reason she rounded on me and started screaming.*

round out *phr v* **1** [T] **(round** sthg.↔**out)** to complete: *He rounded out his education by spending a year in Paris.* **2** [I] (esp. of a woman) to become rounder in shape, esp. in an attractive way

round sbdy./sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to gather or bring together (scattered things, people, or animals, esp. cattle): *The shepherd's dog rounded up some stray sheep.* | *Round up a few friends to help you!* | *Two of the thieves were arrested outside the bank, and the rest of the gang was rounded up later.* —see also ROUNDUP **2** [(**to**)] to increase (an exact figure) to the next highest whole number —compare ROUND **down,** ROUND **off** (2)

round·a·bout[1] /ˈraʊndəbaʊt/ *n* **1** *BrE* ‖ **traffic circle** *AmE–* a place where three or more roads meet, which has a usu. circular area in the middle round which the traffic must go, rather than straight across **2** *BrE for*

MERRY-GO-ROUND —see also **what you lose on the swings you gain on the roundabouts** (SWING[2])

roundabout[2] *adj* indirect; not in the shortest possible way: *We took a roundabout route to avoid the floods.* | *a roundabout way of saying something*

round brack·et /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n BrE for* BRACKET[1] (2c)

round·ed /ˈraʊndɨd/ *adj* round, esp. pleasingly curved: *her pleasantly rounded figure* —see also WELL-ROUNDED (1)

roun·del /ˈraʊndl/ *n* **1** a small raised circle cut into wood or stone as a decoration **2** a coloured circle showing the nationality of a military aircraft

roun·ders /ˈraʊndəz‖-ərz/ *n* [U] a British ball game like BASEBALL, usu. played by children, in which a player hits the ball and then runs round the edge of a square area

Round·head /ˈraʊndhed/ *n* (usu. cap.) a supporter of Parliament against the King in the English Civil War in the 17th century. The Roundheads fought against the CAVALIERS. —see pictures at CAVALIER and at CROMWELL

round·ish /ˈraʊndɪʃ/ *adj* fairly or rather round in shape

round·ly /ˈraʊndli/ *adv fml* **1** completely: *We were* **roundly defeated.** **2** strongly and forcefully: *The new tax law has been roundly condemned by the Opposition.*

round rob·in /ˌ· ˈ··/ *n* **1** a letter expressing opinions or complaints, signed by many people and sent in to an official body **2** *AmE* a competition in which each player or team plays against each of the other players or teams

rounds /raʊndz/ *n* **1** the tour or usual visits one makes as part of one's job: *The doctor is* **doing his rounds/out on his rounds.** (=visiting sick people) **2 go the rounds** *BrE* ‖ **do the rounds** *AmE infml* (esp. of news or illness) to be passed on; CIRCULATE: *There's a very nasty kind of flu going the rounds this winter.*

round-shoul·dered /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj derog* having shoulders that are bent forwards or slope downwards

rounds·man /ˈraʊndzmən/ *n* **-men** /mən/ *esp. BrE* a man employed by a shop to go round delivering goods to people's houses: *the baker's roundsman*

round-ta·ble /ˌ· ˈ··◂/ *adj* [A] at which all the people present meet in an equal way and have equal importance: *a round-table discussion/conference*

Round Table [*the*] **1** the table at which King Arthur and his KNIGHTS sat, according to old stories. As it was round, all the places at it were equal. —see ARTHURIAN LEGEND **2** an organization for young business and PROFESSIONAL people which holds meetings and does work for the community, eg. CHARITY work

round-the-clock /ˌ· · ˈ·◂/ *adj* [A] done or happening all the time, both day and night: *The police kept a round-the-clock watch on the house.* —see also **around/round the clock** (CLOCK[1])

round-trip /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj AmE* (of a ticket or its cost) for a round trip; RETURN[3]: *a round-trip ticket*

round trip *n* a journey to a place and back again: *The round trip took just over an hour.*

round·up /ˈraʊndʌp/ *n* a gathering or bringing together of scattered things, animals, or people: *There's been a police roundup of all the suspects.* | *a cattle roundup* (=by men on horses) | *There'll be a news roundup* (=giving the main points of the news) *before the station goes off the air.* —see also ROUND **up** (1)

rouse /raʊz/ *v* [T] **1** [(**from, out of**)] *fml* to waken: *The noise roused me (from/out of a deep sleep).* **2** [(**from, out of, to**)] to make more active, interested, or excited: *The speaker tried to rouse his listeners to action/from their apathy.* | *I warn you, he's dangerous when he's roused!* (=when something makes him angry) —see also AROUSE

rous·ing /ˈraʊzɪŋ/ *adj* that makes people excited and eager; STIRRING: *a rousing speech about freedom* | *a rousing chorus of "Rule Britannia"*

Rous·seau /ˈruːsəʊ‖ruːˈsəʊ/, **Jean Jacques** /ʒɒn ʒæk‖ ʒɑːn ʒɑːk/ (1712–78) a French writer and thinker who introduced the phrase "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity", later to become the MOTTO of the French Revolution, in his book *The Social Contract.* He is also remembered for writing about the NOBLE SAVAGE

Rous·sos /ˈruːsɒs‖-səʊs/, **Dem·is** /ˈdemɪs/ (1947–) a Greek singer, esp. popular in the 1970s. He is remembered esp. for his rather high voice and for his large size.

roust /raʊst/ *v* [T] to get someone out of a place: *Go roust your brother out of bed.*

rous·ta·bout /ˈraʊstəbaʊt/ *n AmE* a man who does heavy unskilled work, esp. **a** at a seaport or in an oil field, or **b** in a CIRCUS

rout[1] /raʊt/ *n* a complete defeat and disorderly running away: *the total rout of the enemy forces* | *We* **put** *the enemy* **to rout.** (=beat them and drove them away) | (fig.) *The match was an utter rout; we lost 15–0.*

rout[2] *v* [T] to defeat completely and drive away: *They routed the enemy.* | (fig.) *Our party was routed at the election.*

rout sbdy. ↔ **out** *phr v* [T (**of**)] *infml* to force or drive (someone) out of somewhere they ought not to be: *Harry's been in the bath long enough – go and rout him out!*

route[1] /ruːt‖ruːt, raʊt/ *n* a chosen direction or line of travel between one place and another: *What's the shortest route from London to Cambridge?* | *The school is on a bus route.* (=buses go past and stop) | *to plan one's route* | *the busy Transatlantic air routes* | (fig.) *the surest route to disaster/to success* —see also EN ROUTE, RED ROUTE, SNOW ROUTE, TRADE ROUTE

route[2] *v* [T+*obj*+*adv*/*prep*] to send by a particular route: *They routed the goods through Italy/by way of Germany.*

route march /ˈ· ·/ *n* a long march by soldiers in training

rou·tine[1] /ruːˈtiːn/ *n* **1** [C;U] (a) regular and habitual way of working or doing things: *The security men changed their usual routine and collected the money at a different time.* | *She longed to escape from the same old familiar routine.* | *the stultifying routine of housework* **2** [C] a set of steps learnt and practised by a dancer for public performance: *a dance routine* **3** [C] a set of instructions given to a computer to carry out a particular operation

rou·tine[2] /ˌruːˈtiːn◂/ *adj* **1** regular; according to what is always habitually done; not special: *It's just a routine medical examination, nothing to get worried about.* | *routine maintenance* | *routine police inquiries* **2** *derog* not unusual or exciting: *a dull, routine job* —~**ly** *adv*

roux /ruː/ *n* **roux** /ruːz/ [C;U] (a) liquid mixture of fat and flour used for thickening soups and SAUCES

rove /rəʊv/ *v* [I;T] *esp. lit* to wander; move continually (around): *His eyes roved about the crowded room, looking for the mysterious stranger.* | *a roving reporter*

rov·er /ˈrəʊvəʳ/ *n lit* a wanderer

Rover *tdmk* a British company that makes good quality cars

roving com·mis·sion /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* **1** *tech* permission, given to a person who is inquiring (officially) into a matter, to travel when necessary **2** *infml* a job or piece of work that takes one to many places

roving eye /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [S] *infml* sexual interests that pass quickly from one person to another: *Her husband's got a roving eye.*

row[1] /rəʊ/ *n* **1** [(**of**)] a neat line (of people or things) side by side: *a row of houses* | *a row of cups on a shelf* | *We sat in the third row of the stalls.* (=in a theatre, etc.) | *The children stood* **in a row.** | *Plant the seedlings in parallel rows.* **2 in a row** one after the other without a break: *She won the competition three times in a row.*

row[2] /rəʊ/ *v* [I;T] **1** to move (a boat) through the water with OARS (=long poles with flat ends): *Can you row (a boat)?* | *a rowing club* —see BOAT[1] (USAGE) **2** [(+*obj*)+*adv*/*prep*] to travel or carry in this way: *We rowed down to the island.* | *He rowed us across the lake.* —~**er** *n*

row[3] /rəʊ/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] a trip or journey in a ROWING BOAT

row[4] /raʊ/ *n BrE infml* **1** [C] **a** a noisy quarrel: *He's always having rows with his wife.* **b** a public argument in which charges of wrongdoing and opposing views are exchanged; a DISPUTE or CONTROVERSY: *The Prime Minister is at the centre of a new row concerning government secrets.* | *Her speech provoked a bitter row.* **2** [S] *derog* a noise: *Stop making such a row; I can't sleep!*

row[5] /raʊ/ *v* [I (**about, with**)] *BrE infml* to quarrel, often noisily or violently: *They were rowing about money, as usual.*

row·an /ˈrəʊən, ˈraʊən/ *n* (the bright red berry of) a small tree of the rose family

row·dy /ˈraʊdi/ *adj infml derog* noisy and rough: *We don't let Timothy play with those rowdy children.* | *a rowdy party* —**-dily** *adv* —**-diness** *n* [U]

row·dy·is·m /ˈraʊdi-ɪzəm/ *n* [U] *derog* rowdy behaviour: *rowdyism at football matches*

row house /ˈrəʊ haʊs/ *n AmE for* TERRACED HOUSE —see picture at HOUSE and see colour picture on page 161

rowing boat /ˈrəʊɪŋ bəʊt/ *BrE* ‖ also **row·boat** /ˈrəʊbəʊt/ *esp. AmE*— *n* a small boat that is moved through the water with OARS (=long poles with flat ends)

Row·land /ˈrəʊlənd/, **Tiny** the CHIEF EXECUTIVE of Lonrho, a British based MULTINATIONAL company with interests in trade in every part of the world

row·lock /ˈrɒlək‖ˈrɑː-; *not tech* ˈrəʊlɒk‖-lɑːk/ *BrE* ‖ **oarlock** *AmE*— *n* a pin or U-shaped rest on the side of a boat, for holding an OAR in place

Rown·tree Mack·in·tosh /ˌraʊntriː ˈmækɪntɒʃ‖-tɑːʃ/ *tdmk* one of Britain's largest makers of sweets, chocolates, etc.

Rox·burgh·shire /ˈrɒksbərəʃəʳ‖ˈrɑːk-/ a former COUNTY in SE Scotland, now part of the Borders REGION

roy·al[1] /ˈrɔɪəl/ *adj* [A *no comp.*] **1** (*often cap.*) for, belonging to, or connected with a king or queen: *the royal family* | *The new law has received the royal assent.* (=the approval of the king or queen) —compare REGAL **2** splendid; MAGNIFICENT: *They gave us a* **right royal** (=very splendid) *welcome.* —see also BATTLE ROYAL — ~**ly** *adv*

royal[2] *n* [*usu. pl.*] *infml* a member of the Royal Family: *The papers are full of stories about the royals.*

Royal A·cad·e·my /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ also **Royal Academy of Arts** /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· · ˈ·/— [*the*] **1** the British society of artists whose members can use the title **RA** after their name. They run a POSTGRADUATE school for artists and hold many EXHIBITIONS. Anyone can put forward a piece of art for their Summer Exhibition each year but only the best paintings are shown. There is fierce competition to take part. **2** the building in London where their work is shown

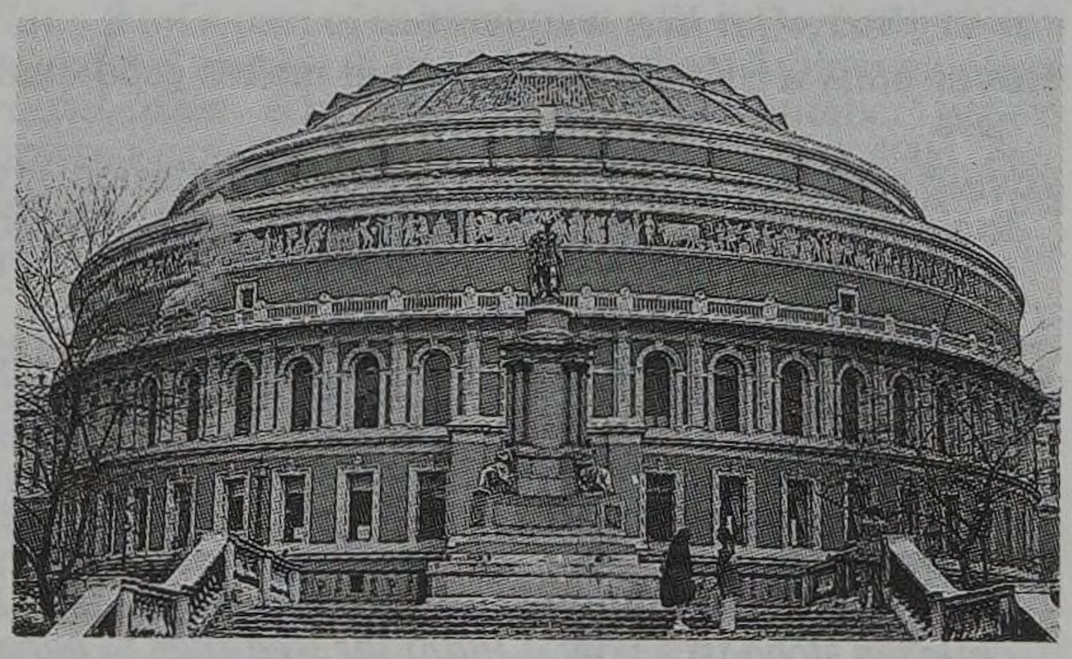
Royal A·cad·e·my of Dra·mat·ic Arts /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· · ·ˌ·· ˈ· / see RADA

Royal Academy of Mu·sic /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· · ˈ··/ [*the*] an important London music college

Royal Air·craft Es·tab·lish·ment /ˌ·· ˈ·· ·ˌ···/ see RAE

Royal Air Force /ˌ·· ˈ· ·/ see RAF

the Royal Albert Hall



Royal Al·bert Hall /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] see ALBERT HALL

Royal and An·cient /ˌ·· · ˈ··/ also **R and A**— [*the*] the organization which decides on the rules of GOLF for most countries except the US. Its full name is the **Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews.**

Royal An·gli·a Re·gi·ment /ˌ·· ˈ··· ˌ···/ [*the*] a REGIMENT (a large division of men) in the British army

Royal As·cot /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a four-day horse-racing event at Ascot, England, every June. It is one of the most important race meetings in Britain and members of the royal family always attend. One of the days is called Ladies' Day and some of the women like to wear unusual and usu. big hats. It is popular esp. with UPPER-CLASS people.

royal as·sent /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] the signing of a law by the British king or queen, the final stage of its passing through Parliament. The signing is purely formal and has no connection with the king or queen's personal wishes.: *The Channel Tunnel bill today received the royal assent.*

Royal Bal·let /ˌ·· ˈ··‖ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] Britain's national BALLET company, which includes many dancers of international quality, and has its base at Covent Garden in London

Royal Bank of Scot·land /ˌ·· ˌ· · ˈ··/ [*the*] one of the main Scottish banks which is now often also found in England. Like other Scottish banks, it prints its own banknotes.

royal blue /ˌ·· ˈ·◂/ *adj* of a purplish-blue colour

Royal Brit·ish Le·gion /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] see BRITISH LEGION

Royal Ca·na·di·an Mount·ed Police /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ (*abbrev.* **RCMP**) [*the*] a Canadian police force —see also MOUNTIE

Royal Col·lege of Art /ˌ·· ˌ·· · ˈ·/ also **RCA** — [*the*] a leading London art college

Royal College of Mu·sic /ˌ·· ˌ·· · ˈ··/ [*the*] a London school for musicians who show the promise of great ability

Royal College of Nurs·es /ˌ·· ˌ·· · ˈ··/ [*the*] an association of British nurses which represents them when this is necessary

royal com·mis·sion /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ *n* a group of people chosen to look carefully at a subject which the British government thinks may need new laws, and to make suggestions: *the royal commission on the future of broadcasting*

Royal Court /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a London theatre known for its production of serious new plays

Royal Doul·ton /ˌrɔɪəl ˈdəʊltən/ *tdmk* a type of high quality fine CHINA (2) made in England

Royal En·clos·ure /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ [*the*] a special area at Ascot, open to ticket holders only

the royal family



royal fam·i·ly /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*] **1** the family of the king or queen of a country **2** (*often caps.*) (in Britain) Queen Elizabeth II and her family. There are many colourful ceremonies involving the Royal Family and they visit towns and institutions. A lot of British people are very fond of the Royal Family and like to read about them. The popular newspapers often write about them.

Royal Fes·ti·val Hall /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] see FESTIVAL HALL

royal flush /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* (in card games) a set of cards dealt to a person which are the five highest cards in one of the four different types (SUITS[1] (2))

Royal Green Jackets /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ··/ also **Green Jackets**— [*the*] a REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army

Royal Green·wich Ob·ser·va·to·ry /ˌ·· ˌ·· ·ˈ····/ [*the*] an OBSERVATORY which sets the time in Britain, and the TIME ZONES in the world —see also GREENWICH MEAN TIME

Royal High·land Re·gi·ment /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*] see BLACK WATCH

Royal High·ness /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* (used for speaking to or about a royal person, esp. a prince or princess): *Good morning, Your Royal Highness.* | *Their Royal Highnesses have graciously consented to attend.*

Royal Horse Guards /ˌ·· ˈ· ˌ·/ also **The Blues**— [*the*+P] a former REGIMENT (=large division of men) of the British army, called The Blues because of their blue uniform, which joined with the Royal Dragoons in 1969 to form the Blues and Royals —see also HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

Royal Hor·ti·cul·tur·al So·ci·e·ty /ˌ·· ··ˈ··· ·ˌ···/ [*the*] a British society of garden lovers which arranges the CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW each year

Royal In·sti·tu·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ [*the*] a British institution which encourages science

Royal I·rish Ran·gers /ˌ·· ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] an Irish REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army. In 1992 they joined with the UDR to become the **Royal Irish Regiment**.

roy·al·ist /ˈrɔɪəlɪst/ *adj, n* (*sometimes cap.*) (typical of) someone who supports a king or queen, or who believes

that a country should be ruled by kings and queens: *an ardent royalist*

royal jel·ly /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* [U] a substance produced by bees which, it is claimed, has the effect of increasing health and helping humans to live longer. It is used in cosmetics (COSMETIC[1]) and eaten.

Royal Mail /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] the official name of the part of the POST OFFICE which deals with delivering letters, parcels, and selling stamps

Royal Ma·rines /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] the part of the British army trained to fight at sea

Royal Mile /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a line of streets in Edinburgh which runs from the Castle to Holyrood House, a royal palace

Royal Mil·i·ta·ry A·cad·e·my /ˌ·· ˌ···· ·ˈ···/ [*the*] see SANDHURST

Royal Mint /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] **1** a British government department which is responsible for making paper money and coins **2** the building where this work is done

Royal Na·tion·al In·sti·tute for the Blind /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˌ··· · · ˈ·/ also **RNIB** – [*the*] an association which helps blind people in Britain

Royal National Institute for the Deaf /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˌ··· · · ˈ·/ [*the*] a British organization which gives help and support to people who cannot hear

Royal National Life·boat In·sti·tu·tion /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˈ·· ··ˌ··/ [*the*] see RNLI

Royal Na·val Col·lege /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ··/ also **Britannia Royal Naval College**– [*the*] a training college at Dartmouth, SW England, where young men in the Royal Navy learn to be officers

Royal Na·vy /ˌ·· ˈ··/ [*the*] the men and ships of Britain's armed forces at sea –compare MERCHANT NAVY

Royal Op·e·ra House /ˌ·· ˈ··· ·/ [*the*] one of the two important London theatres where OPERAS and BALLET are performed, often called **Covent Garden** because it is in Covent Garden

Royal Pa·vil·ion /ˌ·· ·ˈ··/ [*the*] a building in an exciting and unusual ORIENTAL style built in Brighton in 1817 for the Prince of Wales

Royal Phil·har·mon·ic Or·ches·tra /ˌ·· ··ˈ·· ˌ···/ also **RPO, Royal Philharmonic** – [*the*] a leading London ORCHESTRA

royal pre·rog·a·tive /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ *n* [*the*] (*often caps.*) (any of) the special rights of a king or queen: *In Britain it is the royal prerogative to order Parliament to meet.*

Royal Re·gi·ment of Fu·si·liers /ˌ·· ˌ··· · ··ˈ·/ [*the*] a REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army

Royal Scot /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] the most famous British steam train

Royal Scots /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a Scottish REGIMENT (=a large division of men) in the British army. It is the oldest regiment.

Royal Scots Dra·goon Guards /ˌ·· · ·ˈ· ˌ·/ [*the*+P] a part of the British army which is involved with ARMOURED vehicles

Royal Shakes·peare Com·pa·ny /ˌ·· ˈ·· ˌ···/ [*the*] a British theatre company of high quality actors who perform works by Shakespeare and other writers; also called the **RSC**

Royal Show /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a yearly British farming show

Royal So·ci·e·ty /ˌ·· ·ˈ···/ [*the*] Britain's oldest scientific society, whose members (FELLOWS) are elected because of the high standard of their work in their particular fields

Royal Society for the Pro·tec·tion of Birds /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· · · ·ˌ·· · ˈ·/ [*the*] see RSPB

Royal Society of Arts /ˌ·· ·ˌ··· ·ˈ·/ [*the*] see RSA

Royal Tour·na·ment /ˌ·· ˈ···/ [*the*] a yearly public show produced by the British army, air force, and navy in which they show their skills with displays of GYMNASTICS etc.

roy·al·ty /ˈrɔɪəlti/ *n* **1** [U+*sing./pl. v*] also **the Royals**– members of the Royal Family: *The flag is only raised when royalty is/are present.* **2** [C] a payment made to the writer of a book, piece of music, etc., out of the money made from selling that work: *The writer gets a 10% royalty on each copy (sold) of his book.*

Royal Ul·ster Con·stab·u·la·ry /ˌ·· ˌ·· ·ˈ····/ [*the*] see RUC

Royal Va·ri·e·ty Show /ˌ·· ·ˈ··· ˌ·/ [*the*] a yearly show of singing, dancing, etc. in the London Palladium, which raises money for CHARITY and at which members of the British royal family are present

royal we /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [*the*] *sometimes humor* the use of we (by a king or queen) when it really means I

Royal Welsh Fu·si·liers /ˌ·· ˌ· ··ˈ·/ [*the*] a Welsh REGIMENT (=large division of men) in the British army

Royal Worces·ter /ˌ·· ˈ··/ a type of high quality fine CHINA (2) made in England

Royal Yacht /ˌ·· ˈ·/ [*the*] a boat belonging to the British Royal Family. They sometimes travel in it when they make official visits to other countries. It is called **Britannia**.

Roy Ro·gers /ˌrɔɪ ˈrɒdʒəz‖-ˈrɑːdʒərz/ also **Shirley Temple**– *n* [C;U] (in the US) (a glass of) a drink for children made of LEMONADE and GRENADINE (a sweet juice) with a CHERRY floating in it

rozz·er /ˈrɒzəʳ‖ˈrɑː-/ *n BrE old-fash sl* a policeman

RP /ˌɑː ˈpiː‖ˌɑːr-/ *n* [U] Received Pronunciation; the form of British English pronunciation which is used by many educated people in every part of Britain and is typical of many people in the South of England. It is thought of as a standard form and is often used by the BBC, esp. by NEWSREADERS. –see also BBC ENGLISH, OXFORD ENGLISH

rpm /ˌɑː piː ˈem‖ˌɑːr-/ *abbrev. for:* revolutions per minute; a measure of the speed of an apparatus that goes round or of an engine: *Play this record at 33$^{1}/_{3}$ rpm.*

RPO /ˌɑː piː ˈəʊ‖ˌɑːr-/ [*the*] *abbrev. for* ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RSA /ˌɑːr es ˈeɪ/ [*the*] Royal Society of Arts; a British association which encourages education for the arts and trade. It sets examinations in English as a Foreign Language together with the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.

RSI /ˌɑːr es ˈaɪ/ *abbrev. for*: REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY

RSPB /ˌɑːr es piː ˈbiː/ [*the*] Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; an organization (CHARITY) in Britain which tries to protect birds

RSPCA /ˌɑːr es piː siː ˈeɪ/ [*the*] Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; an organization (a CHARITY) in Britain which is concerned with the protection of animals

RS232 /ˌɑːr es ˌtuː θriː ˈtuː/ also **RS232C** /ˌ· · ˌ· · · ˈ·/– *tech* (the name usually used for) the standard connector between a computer and a MODEM or between a computer and various kinds of equipment that are connected to it. It is a PLUG with (holes for) 25 pins, arranged in two rows, one with 13 pins and one with 12 pins.

RSV /ˌɑːr es ˈviː/ *n abbrev. for*: REVISED STANDARD VERSION

RSVP /ˌɑːr es viː ˈpiː/ *abbrev. for:* répondez s'il vous plaît (*Fr*); please reply (written on invitations)

Rt Hon *written abbrev. for* Right Honourable –see RIGHT[5] (6)

rub[1] /rʌb/ *v* **-bb-** **1** [I;T] to press one's hand or another surface against (something), usu. with a repeated up-and-down or round-and-round movement: *He rubbed his itchy skin.* | *I rubbed the window with a cloth.* | *She rubbed the rude words off the board.* | *I accidentally rubbed against the wet paint, and ruined my jacket.* **2** [T (TOGETHER)] to slide (two surfaces) against each other in this way: *He rubbed his hands (together) with pleasure|to warm them.* **3** [I **(against, on)**] (of a surface) to slide up and down or round and round, esp. so as to cause pain or damage: *My shoe's rubbing.* (=against my heel, toe, etc.) | *This tyre seems badly worn; it must be rubbing against|on something.* **4** [T+*obj*+*adv|prep*] to put on, over, or into a surface by rubbing: *Rub salt into the meat before cooking it.* | *Rub the ointment in well.* | *Spray the polish onto the table and rub it well in with a soft cloth.* **5** [T+*obj*+*adj|adv|prep*] to make or put in the stated condition by rubbing: *Rub your hair dry with this cloth.* | *You've rubbed a hole in the elbow of your coat.* **6 rub it in** *infml* to keep talking about something that another person wants to forget, such as a past mistake: *"I told you it would never work like that." "All right – there's no need to rub it in!"* **7 rub salt into the|someone's wound(s)** to make someone's suffering or annoyance even worse **8 rub shoulders with** *infml* to meet socially and treat as equals (esp. people of a different type or social class): *In my job I rub shoulders with all sorts of interesting people.* **9 rub**

someone's nose in it/in the dirt *infml* to punish someone by reminding them of the bad results of their actions **10 rub someone (up) the wrong way** *infml* to annoy someone, esp. by dealing with them without proper care or thought: ANTAGONIZE

rub along *phr v* [I] *BrE infml* **1** [(**by, on**)] to continue to live or to do what is necessary, but with difficulty; SURVIVE: *We haven't got much money, but we rub along somehow.* **2** [(**with,** TOGETHER)] to have a fairly good relationship; remain quite friendly: *My boss and I seem to rub along (together) all right.*

rub down *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**rub** sbdy./sthg. ↔ **down**)] to dry (oneself or an animal) by rubbing: *She rubbed her horse down after her ride.* **2** [T] (**rub** sthg.↔**down**) to clean or make smooth (a surface) by rubbing: *Rub the door down before you paint it.* —see also RUBDOWN

rub off *phr v* [I (**on, onto**)] to come off a surface by rubbing: *The paint marks will rub off quite easily.* | (fig.) *I hope that some of her good qualities will rub off onto you.* (=that you will get some of her good qualities as a result of working or spending time with her)

rub out *phr v* **1** [I;T (=**rub** sthg.↔**out**)] *BrE*‖**erase** *AmE*— to remove (esp. pencil writing) or be removedwith a RUBBER[1] (2): *He pencilled in his name, then changed his mind and rubbed it out.* | *These marks won't rub out properly.* **2** [T] (**rub** sbdy.↔**out**) *AmE sl* to murder

rub[2] *n* **1** [S] *infml* an act of rubbing: *Give the table a good rub with this cloth.* **2 there's the rub** there's the difficulty or cause of trouble: *We need to borrow more money to save the company, but there's the rub: no one will lend us any.* **3 the rub of the green** *BrE infml* (the influence of) a piece of good or bad luck

rub·ber[1] /ˈrʌbəʳ/ *n* **1** [U] a substance, made either naturally from the juice of a tropical tree or artificially, which keeps out water and springs back into position when stretched: *Tyres are made of rubber.* | *a rubber plantation* | *a rubber ball* **2** [C] *esp. BrE* a piece of rubber used for removing pencil marks; ERASER **3** [C] *esp. BrE* ‖ **eraser** *AmE*— a piece of material used for rubbing surfaces to clean them: *a board rubber* (=for cleaning BLACKBOARDS) **4** [C] *infml for* CONDOM **5** [C *usu. pl.*] *AmE for* GALOSH —see also RUBBERY **6** (in BASEBALL) the piece of material placed where the PITCHER stands: *Niekro consults with the catcher before going back to the rubber and preparing for the next pitch.*

rubber[2] *n* a competition, esp. in cards or international cricket, which usu. consists of an odd number of games: *Shall we have|play a few rubbers of bridge after dinner?*

rubber band /ˌ·· ˈ·/ also **elastic band**— *n* a thin circular piece of rubber used for fastening things together: *Put a rubber band round this bunch of flowers.*

rubber boot /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* a WELLINGTON —see picture at SHOE

rubber ce·ment /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] *AmE* a very sticky kind of glue which dries slowly

rubber din·ghy /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *n* a small rubber boat blown up with air —see picture at DINGHY

rub·ber·neck /ˈrʌbənek‖-ər-/ *v* [I] *AmE infml derog* **1** to look about or watch something with too much interest, esp. an accident **2** to go on a pleasure trip as one of a group with a guide —**-er** *n* : *The accident on the 405 has been moved to the side, but rubbernecks are still causing traffic to slow down.* (people looking at the accident as they drive past are slowing the traffic).

rubber plant /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a decorative house plant with large shiny dark green leaves

rubber-stamp /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *v* [T] *often derog* to give official approval to (a decision) without really thinking about it: *The divorce proceedings are a formality; the court will just rubber-stamp them.*

rubber stamp *n* **1** a small object used for printing the date, the name of an organization, etc., consisting of a piece of rubber on a handle, with raised letters or figures, which is pressed onto an INKPAD and then onto the printing surface **2** *usu. derog* a person or body that acts only to make official the decisions already made by another

rubber tree /ˈ·· ·/ *n* a tropical tree from which rubber is obtained

rub·ber·y /ˈrʌbəri/ *adj* strong and slightly elastic like rubber: *The meat's a bit rubbery – you cooked it too long!*

rub·bing /ˈrʌbɪŋ/ *n* a copy of a raised shape or pattern in stone or metal (esp. brass), made by rubbing a piece of paper laid over the shape with WAX, chalk, etc.: *She did a* **brass rubbing** *of the medieval knight in the old church.*

rubbing al·co·hol /ˈ·· ˌ···/ *n* [U] *AmE for* SURGICAL SPIRIT

rub·bish[1] /ˈrʌbɪʃ/ *n* [U] *BrE* **1** also **garbage, trash** *AmE*— things or material of no use or value that will be or have been thrown away: *The dustmen come on Thursdays to collect the rubbish.* | *Throw it on the rubbish heap.* | *household rubbish* **2** something worthless that does not deserve serious attention; nonsense: *He's talking a load of rubbish.* | *That new TV show is absolute rubbish.*

rubbish[2] *v* [T] *infml, esp. BrE & AustrE* to say that (someone or something) is bad or worthless; severely CRITICIZE: *The government's plan was rubbished by the opposition parties.*

rubbish bin /ˈ·· ·/ *BrE*‖**trash can, garbage can** *AmE*— *n* **1** a DUSTBIN **2** a container for rubbish

rub·bish·y /ˈrʌbɪʃi/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* worthless and silly; TRASHY: *a rubbishy love story*

rub·ble /ˈrʌbəl/ *n* [U] (a mass of) broken stones or bricks, esp. from a building that has been destroyed: *After the bombing her house was just a heap of rubble.*

rub·down /ˈrʌbdaʊn/ also **rub down** /ˌ· ˈ·/— *n* **1** an act of rubbing something down (RUB **down**): *Give the wall a rubdown with some sandpaper.* **2** *AmE* a MASSAGE, esp. after exercise

rube /ruːb/ *n AmE derog sl* a person, usu. from the country, who does not understand the ways of the world and lacks taste: *Those rubes wouldn't know a good show if they saw one!*

ru·bel·la /ruːˈbelə/ *n* [U] *med for* GERMAN MEASLES

Ru·bens /ˈruːbn̩z/, **Peter Paul** (1577–1640) a Flemish artist regarded as one of the great artists, responsible for over 2000 paintings

Ru·bi·con /ˈruːbɪkən, -kɒn‖-kɑːn/ *n* see **cross the Rubicon** (CROSS[2] (12))

ru·bi·cund /ˈruːbɪkənd/ *adj fml or humor* (of a person or esp. their face) fat, red, and healthy-looking: *a jolly, rubicund farmer*

Ru·bik's Cube /ˈruːbɪks ˌkjuːb/ also **Rubik Cube**— *n tdmk* a toy consisting of a CUBE with nine smaller coloured cubes forming each face. The small cubes must be turned so that each face of the large cube shows one colour only. Rubik's Cube was a very popular toy in the 1970s.

ru·ble /ˈruːbəl/ *n* a ROUBLE

ru·bric /ˈruːbrɪk/ *n fml* a set of rules or explanations on an examination paper, in a book, etc. which is printed in a different way to the main body of the writing and which tells one what to do

ru·by /ˈruːbi/ *n* **1** [C] a deep red precious stone **2** [U] the colour of this stone

Ruby, Jack (1911–67) the man who killed Lee Harvy Oswald, who is believed to have killed President John F Kennedy. Ruby's killing of Oswald led some people to believe that there was a CONSPIRACY (=secret plan) to kill Kennedy and that Oswald was shot so that he could not say anything about it.

RUC /ˌɑː juː ˈsiː‖ˌɑːr-/ [*the*] Royal Ulster Constabulary; the police force of Northern Ireland

ruck[1] /rʌk/ *n BrE* **1** [*the*] the ordinary level of life: *She dreamed of getting out of the (common) ruck and becoming famous as a singer.* **2** [S] (esp. in the game of RUGBY) a loose disordered group of players

ruck[2] *v*

ruck up *phr v* [I] (of cloth) to form unwanted folds: *Your coat has rucked up at the back.*

ruck·sack /ˈrʌksæk/ *esp. BrE*‖usu. **backpack** *AmE*— *n* a bag fastened to the shoulders and usu. fixed to a light frame, used by climbers and walkers for carrying their belongings

ruck·us /ˈrʌkəs/ *n* [*usu. sing.*] *infml, esp. AmE* a noisy argument or a noisy confused situation; RUMPUS

ruc·tion /ˈrʌkʃən/ also **ructions** *pl.*— *n* [S] *infml, esp. BrE* noisy complaints and anger: *There'll be ructions if you don't give him some more chocolate!*

rud·der /ˈrʌdəʳ/ *n* a wooden or metal blade at the back of a ship or aircraft that is swung from side to side to control the direction in which it moves —see picture at

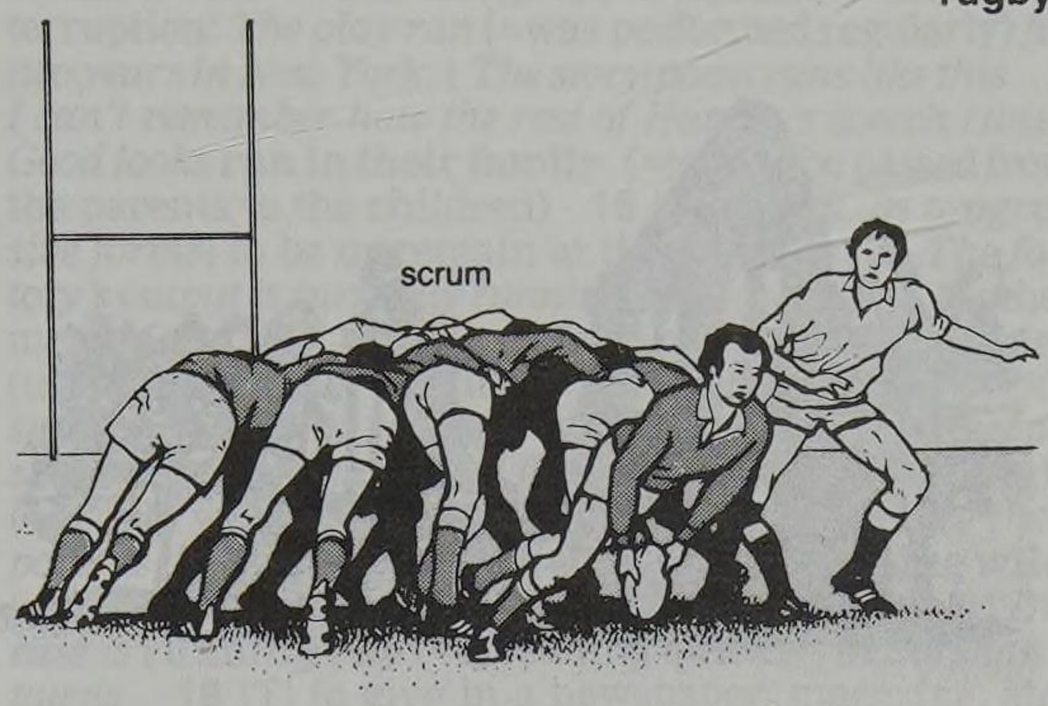
Rugby

rugby

There are two forms of rugby football played in Britain, rugby union and rugby league.

Rugby union is played by AMATEURS (=they are not paid). There are 15 players on each team. Rugby union is played internationally between many countries including Australia, Fiji, France, South Africa, Argentina, England, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, and New Zealand. In Britain it is played especially in public schools.

Rugby league is a professional game, played mainly in the N of England (and in Australia). There are 13 players on each team, and the rules are slightly different from rugby union. It is thought to be a rough, hard game.



AIRCRAFT and YACHT — **~less** *adj* : (fig., *fml*) *The death of our leader has left the country rudderless.*

Rud·dles /ˈrʌdlz/ *n* [C;U] *tdmk* a type of British beer

rud·dy[1] /ˈrʌdi/ *adj* **1** *apprec* (of the face) pink and healthy-looking: *the children's ruddy cheeks* **2** *esp. lit* red or reddish: *The fire cast a ruddy glow over the city.* **3** [A] *BrE euph* (used to add force, esp. to an expression of anger) BLOODY[2]: *You're standing on my ruddy foot!* —**-diness** *n* [U]

ruddy[2] *adv BrE euph* BLOODY[2]: *There's no need to be so ruddy rude!*

rude /ruːd/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) not at all polite; intentionally bad-mannered; offensive: *It's rude to tell someone you don't like them.* | *Don't be so rude to your father!* | *It was very rude of her to leave without telling us.* | *a rude remark|letter* —see IMPOLITE (USAGE) **2** (used esp. by or to children) concerned with sex: *She told a rather rude joke, and everyone looked embarrassed.* **3** [A] sudden and unpleasant: *We had a rude shock when we discovered who he really was.* | *The staff had* **a rude awakening** *when they learned that the company was in serious trouble.* **4** [A] *old use or lit* simple and roughly made: *a rude hut* **5 in rude health** *fml or pomp* very healthy — **~ness** *n* [U]

rude·ly /ˈruːdli/ *adv* **1** in a RUDE (1) way: *"Go away!" he said rudely.* **2** *old use or lit* in a RUDE (4) way: *a rudely constructed shelter*

ru·di·men·ta·ry /ˌruːdɪˈmentəri◂/ *adj fml* **1** (of facts, knowledge, etc.) at the simplest level; coming or learnt first: *I have only a rudimentary knowledge|grasp of chemistry.* **2** simple and incomplete; PRIMITIVE: *Their road-building equipment is fairly rudimentary.* | *a rudimentary airfield* **3** *esp. tech* small and not fully usable, either because not yet developed or because of gradual disappearance: *Ostriches have rudimentary wings.*

ru·di·ments /ˈruːdɪmənts/ *n* [*the*+P+**of**] the simplest parts (of a subject), learnt at the very beginning: *It didn't take me long to pick up|learn the rudiments of the language.*

Ru·dolph, the Red-nosed Rein·deer /ˌruːdɒlf ðə ˌred nəʊzd ˈreɪndɪəʳ‖ˌruːdɑːlf-/ a character in a children's song, a REINDEER called Rudolph who had a shiny red nose. The other reindeer thought his nose looked silly, but in spite of this Santa Claus chose (CHOOSE) him to pull his SLEDGE. In the US he is a character in a children's television CARTOON and has a nose that lights up. —see colour picture on page 1212

rue /ruː/ *v* [T] *esp. old use or humor* to be very sorry about (something one has done or not done); REGRET: *He'll* **rue the day** (=will always be sorry that) *he married her.*

rue·ful /ˈruːfəl/ *adj* feeling or showing that one is sorry about something: *"If only I hadn't agreed to do it," he thought with a rueful smile.* — **~ly** *adv*

ruff /rʌf/ *n* **1** a stiff wheel-shaped white collar worn in Europe in the 16th century **2** a ring of hair or feathers round the neck of an animal or bird

ruf·fi·an /ˈrʌfiən/ *n old-fash derog* an unpleasant violent man: *a gang of ruffians* — **~ly** *adj*

ruf·fle[1] /ˈrʌfəl/ *v* [T] **1** [(UP)] to move the smooth surface of; make uneven: *He fondly ruffled the child's hair.* | *The bird ruffled (up) its feathers.* **2** to trouble or upset, esp. causing a loss of confidence: *Her taunts ruffled his pride|composure.* | *Some of the audience were shouting at him, and you could see he was getting a bit ruffled.* **3 ruffle someone's feathers** *infml* to make someone slightly angry or upset

ruffle[2] *n* a band of fine cloth sewn in folds as a decoration round the edge of something, esp. at the neck or wrists of a garment; FRILL

rug /rʌg/ *n* **1** a thick usu. woollen mat, smaller than a CARPET, used to cover the floor or for decoration: *a rug in front of the fire* | *a hearthrug* —compare MAT[1] (1) —see picture at LIVING ROOM **2** *esp. BrE* a large warm woollen covering to wrap round oneself, esp. when travelling or camping: *Put this rug over your knees.* **3** *humor, esp. AmE for* TOUPEE **4 pull the rug (out) from under** *infml* to suddenly stop supporting or helping

rug·by /ˈrʌgbi/ also **rugby foot·ball** /ˌ·· ˈ··/ *fml n* [U] (*sometimes cap.*) a type of football in which the ball can be handled, played with an OVAL (=egg-shaped) ball by two teams of either 13 players (**Rugby League** which is played by people who are paid to play rugby as their job) or 15 players (**Rugby Union** which is a non-professional game and has slightly different rules) —see picture on page 884

Rugby a town in central England best known for the PUBLIC SCHOOL (Rugby School) where rugby football was first played

rugby shirt /ˈ·· ˌ·/ *n* a shirt, usu. with wide bands of two different colours worn by rugby football players and also as a fashion

rug·ged /ˈrʌgɪd/ *adj* **1** having a rough uneven surface: *rugged hills* | *rugged terrain* **2** strongly built; STURDY: *You need a fairly rugged vehicle for crossing the desert.* | (fig.) *She admired his rugged good looks.* — **~ly** *adv* — **~ness** *n* [U]

rug·ger /ˈrʌgəʳ/ *n* [U] Rugby Union football. Many people think of this word as UPPER CLASS or used only in the British PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ru·in[1] /ˈruːɪn/ *n* **1** [U] (something that causes) complete failure or loss of one's money, position, moral standards, etc.; DOWNFALL: *His rashness led ultimately to his ruin.* | *With the collapse of grain prices the small farmers are on the brink of (financial) ruin.* | *The country is going to* **rack and ruin.** **2** [U] a condition of destruction and decay: *The ancient temple had fallen into ruin.* **3** [C] also **ruins** *pl.*— the remains of a building that has fallen down or been (partly) destroyed: *There's an interesting old ruin at the top of that hill.* | *We picked our way through the ruins of the bombed building.* **4 in ruins** (of a building) ruined: *The castle now lies in ruins.* | (fig.) *His life|career is in ruins.* —see also MOTHER'S RUIN

ruin[2] *v* [T] **1** to destroy or spoil (completely): *an ancient ruined city* | *The rain ruined my painting|our holiday|her hairstyle.* | *You'll ruin your chances of the job if you wear that shirt to the interview!* | *disclosures that ruined her reputation* **2** to cause total loss of money to: *I was (financially) ruined by that law suit.* *See picture on page 1154*

ru·in·a·tion /ˌruːɪˈneɪʃən/ *n* [U] (the cause of) being ruined: *You'll be the ruination of me, spending all that money!*

ru·in·ous /ˈruːɪnəs/ *adj* causing or likely to cause



ruins

destruction or total loss of money: *The cost will be ruinous.* | *a ruinous war* – ~**ly** *adv*: *ruinously expensive*

rule[1] /ruːl/ *n* **1** [C] **a** an official or accepted principle or order which guides behaviour, says how things are to be done, etc.: *It's* **against the rules** *to handle the ball in football.* | *You must obey/observe the rules.* | *There's a penalty if you* **break the rules**. | *the rules of tennis* | *the club rules* [+*that*] *We have a rule that the loser of the game buys everyone a drink.* | *I get so annoyed by all these petty* **rules and regulations**. | *You're not really allowed to do that, but perhaps on this occasion we can* **bend/stretch the rules**. (=break the rules slightly) **b** the usual way that something happens: *the rules of grammar* | *Snow here in April is* **the exception, not the rule**. (=is unusual) | **As a rule** (=usually) *I get home by seven o'clock.* **2** [U] a period or way of ruling: *The country prospered under her wise rule.* | *Our nation is under foreign rule.* (=governed by foreigners) | *Everyone is subject to the rule of law.* | *mob rule* **3** [C] a RULER (2): *a two-foot rule* –see also GOLDEN RULE, GROUND RULE, HOME RULE, QUEENSBERRY RULES, RULE OF THUMB, SLIDE RULE, **work to rule** (WORK[2])

rule[2] *v* **1** [I (**over**); T] to control or be the person in charge of (a country, people, etc.): *Alexander the Great ruled (over) a large empire.* **2** [T] to have a controlling influence over: *Don't let the desire for money rule your life.* | *He* **let his heart rule his head**. (=made decisions according to his feelings rather than his judgment) | *Be ruled by me* (=take my advice)*; don't agree to do it.* **3** [I+*adv/prep*; T] (esp. in law) to give an official decision (on): *It is up to the courts to rule on this matter.* | *The court has ruled in favour of the sacked employee.* [+*that*] *The judge ruled that she must pay the money back.* [+*obj*+*adj/adv/prep*] *The judge ruled him out of order/in contempt of court.* | *The company's behaviour has been ruled unlawful.* –see also RULING[1] **4** [T] to draw (a line) using a ruler or similar straight edge **5** ...**rules OK** a phrase used with names esp. of football teams or GANG[1]*s* of youths, usu. written on walls etc. as GRAFFITI and meaning that the team/gang mentioned is considered to be the best by its supporters/members: *Arsenal rules OK.* | *Gelderd Boot Boys rule OK.* **6 rule the roost** *infml* to be in charge: *It's his wife who really rules the roost in that house.* **7 rule someone with a rod of iron/with an iron hand** to govern (esp. a group) in a very severe way

rule sthg./sbdy.↔**out** *phr v* [T] **1** to say that (something or someone) is not under consideration as a possibility: *The police have ruled out foul play.* | *We can't rule out the possibility that she was murdered by her husband.* **2** to make it impossible for (something) to happen, (someone) to do something, etc.: *Rain ruled out further play.* | *An ankle injury ruled him out for the big match.*

rule·book /ˈruːlbʊk/ *n* **1** [C] a book of rules, esp. one given to workers on a job **2** [*the*+S] the set of all the rules of a particular activity: *He always goes by* (=obeys) *the rulebook.*

Rule Bri·tan·nia /ˌ· ·ˈ··/ a song about Britain's command of the seas in former years, sung on PATRIOTIC occasions in the belief that Britain is still great: *Thousands of people had gathered in the Mall and sung Rule Britannia.*

ruled /ruːld/ *adj* (of paper) having parallel lines drawn on it

rule of thumb /ˌ· · ˈ·/ *n* [C;U] a principle or method based on practical sense and experience rather than exact rules or calculations: *As a rough rule of thumb, each £1000 you borrow will cost you £10 a month in repayments.*

rul·er /ˈruːləʳ/ *n* **1** a person who rules **2** a long narrow flat piece of wood, plastic, or metal with straight edges, which is marked with INCH*es* or centimetres and used for measuring things or for drawing straight lines: *a 12-inch ruler* –compare TAPE MEASURE, and see picture at MATHEMATICS

rul·ing[1] /ˈruːlɪŋ/ *n* [(**on**)] an official decision, esp. of a court: *We're anxiously awaiting the court's ruling on this matter.* [+*that*] *The judge gave a ruling that they should pay all the money back.* –see also RULE[2]

ruling[2] *adj* [A] most powerful; in control: *the ruling classes* | *the ruling party in the national assembly* | *His garden is his* **ruling passion**. (=main interest in life)

rum[1] /rʌm/ *n* [C;U] (a glass of) a strong alcoholic drink made from the juice of the SUGARCANE plant

►CULTURAL NOTE Rum is the TRADITIONAL drink of sailors, and is associated esp. with PIRATE*s*, who are often shown drinking rum in stories.◄

rum[2] *adj* **-mm-** *old-fash infml, esp. BrE* unusual; strange

Ru·ma·ni·a /ruːˈmeɪniə/ ROMANIA

rum·ba /ˈrʌmbə/ *n* (the music for) a popular dance originally from Cuba

rum·ble[1] /ˈrʌmbəl/ *v* **1** [I] to make or move with a deep rolling sound: *The thunder/The big guns rumbled in the distance.* | *The heavy cart rumbled down the street.* | *I'm hungry – my stomach's rumbling.* **2** [T] *BrE infml* to find out or make known the true facts about (esp. a dishonest person or activity): *We've been rumbled; someone must have told the police.*

rumble[2] *n* **1** [S] a rumbling sound: *a rumble of thunder* **2** [C] *AmE old fash sl* a street fight

rum·bling /ˈrʌmblɪŋ/ *n* **1** [S] a rumbling sound **2** [C *usu. pl.*] widespread unofficial talk or complaint: *rumblings of dissent/discontent*

rum·bus·tious /rʌmˈbʌstʃəs/ *adj infml, esp. BrE* noisy, lively, and cheerful: *The new film is a rumbustious farce that all the family will enjoy.*

ru·mi·nant /ˈruːmɨnənt/ *n, adj* (an animal) that RUMINATES (2): *The cow is a ruminant.*

ru·mi·nate /ˈruːmɨneɪt/ *v* [I] **1** *fml* (of a person) to think deeply and repeatedly; PONDER: *He ruminated over/on the problem.* **2** *tech* (of cattle, deer, etc.) to bring back food from the stomach and bite it over and over again –**-nation** /ˌruːmɨˈneɪʃən/ *n* [C;U]

ru·mi·na·tive /ˈruːmɨnətɪv‖-neɪ-/ *adj* (of a person or their behaviour) seeming thoughtful: *a ruminative frown* – ~**ly** *adv*

rum·mage[1] /ˈrʌmɪdʒ/ *v* [I+*adv/prep*] *infml* to turn things over and look into all the corners while trying to find something, esp. causing disorder: *Who's been rummaging (about) through my papers?*

rummage[2] *n infml* **1** [S (ABOUT, AROUND)] an act of rummaging: *I'll have a good rummage (around) and see what I can find.* **2** [U] *esp. AmE* old clothes and other things found by rummaging about

rummage sale /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE for* JUMBLE SALE

rummy /ˈrʌmi/ *n* [U] a simple card game for two or more players

ru·mour *BrE* ‖ **rumor** *AmE* /ˈruːməʳ/ *n* **1** [U] unofficial news or information, perhaps untrue, which is spread from person to person; HEARSAY: *The whole article was based on rumour.* | **Rumour has it** (=people are saying) *that Jean's getting married again.* **2** [C (**about, of**)] a story or opinion based on rumour, which may or may not be true: *All sorts of rumours are going round the office about him and his secretary.* | *His illness led to rumours of an early election.* [+*that*] *There's a rumour circulating* (=being spread) *that the factory's going to shut down.* – compare GOSSIP[1]

ru·moured *BrE* ‖**rumored** *AmE* /ˈruːməd‖-ərd/ *adj* reported unofficially: *The rumoured marriage between the prince and the dancer did not in fact take place.* [F+*to-v*] *He is rumoured to have left the country.* [+*that*] *It's rumoured that there'll be an election this year.*

ru·mour·mon·ger /ˈruːməˌmʌŋgəʳ‖-mərˌmɑːŋ-, -ˌmʌŋ-/ *n derog* a person who spreads rumours

rump /rʌmp/ *n* **1** the part of an animal at the back just above the legs: *She ordered a juicy* **rump steak**. (=cut from this part of a cow) **2** *humor* the part of the body one sits on; BOTTOM **3** the remaining small, often

worthless part of something that used to be larger, such as a public body or organization: *After the election the party was reduced to a rump.*

Rum·pel·stilt·skin /ˌrʌmpəlˈstɪltskɪn/ a character in a fairy story of the same name by the brothers Grimm. Rumpelstiltskin teaches a young girl how to spin STRAW into gold for the king and demands her first child as a reward. She becomes queen, but forgets her promise. Rumpelstiltskin gives her three days to discover his name. A servant happens to hear him saying his name, and when the girl tells him what it is, he destroys himself in his anger.

rum·ple /ˈrʌmpəl/ *v* [T] to disarrange (hair, clothes, etc.); make untidy: *We could see from the rumpled sheets that the bed had been slept in.*

rum·pus /ˈrʌmpəs/ *n* [S] *infml* a noisy angry argument or disagreement: *They're bound to* **kick up** (=make) **a rumpus** *about all this damage.*

rumpus room /ˈ·· ·/ *n AmE* a room, usu. below ground level in a house, used for active games and parties

run[1] /rʌn/ *v* **ran** /ræn/, **run** /rʌn/, *present participle* **running** ■ to move fast on foot **1** [I] (of people and some animals) to move on one's legs at a speed faster than walking: *I had to run to catch the bus.* | *The children came running when she called them.* | *The insect ran up my leg.* | *The little boy ran off to get his brother.* | *He's got a gun!* **Run for it/Run for your lives!** (=to save yourselves) **2** [T] **a** to move (a distance) by running: *He ran a mile in four minutes.* **b** to do or complete (as if) by running: *My son often* **runs errands** *for me.* (=goes on a short journey to get something) | (fig.) *The illness/rioting* **ran its course.** (=started, developed, and ended in the expected way) **3** [T] **a** to take part in (a race) by running: *Ovett ran a fine race but only finished second.* **b** to cause (an animal) to take part in a race: *We won't run this horse in any more races this season.* **c** to cause (a race) to happen: *The Derby will be run at three o'clock.* —see also ALSO-RAN ■ to move or travel in some other way **4** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) move quickly or freely: *The car ran downhill out of control/ran off the road/ran into a tree.* | *An alarming thought kept running through my mind.* | *A shudder ran through his body as he died.* | *He ran his fingers through his hair in confusion.* | *Run the videotape back to the point where the ball bounces.* | *Could you* **run your eyes over** *this list?* (=examine it quickly) **5** [I; T] **a** (of a public vehicle) to travel as arranged: *The trains don't run on Sundays/aren't running today.* | *This bus runs between Manchester and Liverpool/from here to the station.* **b** to cause (a public vehicle) to travel: *They're running a special train to the football match.* **6** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] *infml* to go or take in a vehicle: *Can I run you home?* ■ to flow or make something flow **7** [I] (of liquid, sand, etc.) to flow freely: *The tears ran down his face.* | *The salt won't run out if it's too damp.* *The terrible scream* **made my blood run cold.** (=frightened me) **8** [T] to cause (liquids, sand, etc.) to flow, esp. from a TAP: *Run the water until it gets hot.* [+*obj(i)*+*obj(d)*] *Please run me a nice hot bath.* (=fill the bath with water for me) **9** [I] (esp. of a container) to pour out liquid: *Have you left the tap/bath running?* | *The baby's nose is running.* **10** [I] to melt and spread by the action of heat or water: *The butter will run if you put it near the fire.* | *I'm afraid the colours ran when I washed this shirt.* ■ to operate or be in charge of **11** [I;T **(on, by)**] to (cause to) work or be in operation: *Don't touch the engine while it's running.* | *This machine runs on/by electricity.* | *to run a computer program* | *Can you just run the projector to check that it's working?* | *Despite the shortage of drugs and trained staff, they managed to keep the hospital running.* | *This is an expensive car to run.* (=it costs a lot to keep it working, buy petrol for it, etc.) | (fig.) *Is everything running smoothly at the office?* | *The new computer has arrived but it won't be* **up and running** (=in full operation) *until next week.* **12** [T] to control (an organization or system); be in charge of and cause to work: *Who's running this company/contest?* | *They run a small hotel.* | *Don't try and run my life!* | *a well-run/badly-run company* | *the state-run national airline* ■ to continue in a particular direction or state **13** [I+*adv/prep*; *not in progressive forms*] to pass or continue in the stated direction, way, etc.: *The boundary runs to the south of that forest.* | *The road runs along the river bank/over the mountains/through a tunnel.* **14** [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **for**] to have official force during a period of time; remain VALID: *The licence runs for a year.* | *The insurance has only another month to run.* **15** [I+*adv/prep*] to continue without interruption: *The play ran* (=was performed regularly) *for two years in New York.* | *The story/poem runs like this ...* | *I can't remember how the rest of Hamlet's speech runs.* | *Good looks* **run in their family.** (=tend to be passed from the parents to the children) **16** [I **(at)** *usu. in progressive forms*] to be or remain at the stated level: *The factory's output is currently running at 50 cars a day.* ■ other meanings **17** [L+*adj*] to develop or pass into the stated (usu. undesirable) condition: *The well has run dry.* | *Our supply of coal is running short/low.* | *Several people shouted at the chairman; feelings were* **running high.** (=people were getting excited and angry) | *Since their parents divorced those children have been* **running wild.** (=allowed to do what they like, without any control) | *Disease is* **running rife** (=spreading quickly) *in the shanty towns.* **18** [T] to give in a newspaper, magazine, etc.; print: *"The Sunday Times" ran a story about the discovery of Hitler's diaries.* **19** [I **(against, for, in)**] *esp. AmE* to be or become a CANDIDATE (=a person trying to get elected) in an election; STAND[1] (17): *Johnson didn't run a second time.* | *The Democrats chose Mondale to run against Reagan/to run for President.* **20** [T] to bring into a country illegally and secretly: *to run drugs/guns across the border/into Ireland* —see also RUNNER **21** [I] *esp. AmE* (of a hole in woven cloth) to spread; LADDER: *This hole in my tights is starting to run.* **22** [T *usu. in progressive forms*] to have an unusually high (body temperature): *Johnny's running a temperature today; he may have flu.* **23 run a mile** *infml* to run away quickly to avoid someone or something: *She's so shy, I think if a man spoke to her she'd run a mile.* —see also RUNNING, **run amok** (AMOK), **cut and run** (CUT), **run to earth** (EARTH), **run it fine** (FINE), **run the gauntlet** (GAUNTLET), **run one's head against a brick wall** (HEAD), **run rings round** (RING), **run riot** (RIOT), **run to seed** (SEED)

▷ USAGE **Run** is the general word for moving quickly on one's legs. **Race, dash,** and **sprint** all suggest running very fast for a short distance: *I* **raced/ dashed/ sprinted** *down the road to catch the bus.* To **jog** is to run in a steady unhurried way as a form of exercise: *She goes* **jogging** *every morning.*◁

■ phrasal verbs

run across sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to find or meet (esp. someone or something pleasant) by chance: *I ran across an old friend in the street.* —compare COME **across** (1)

run after sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to chase: *My dog was running after a rabbit.* **2** *derog* to try to gain the attention and company of: *If you didn't run after her so much, she might be more interested in you.* **3** *infml* to perform the duties of a servant for: *I can't keep running after you all day!*

run along *phr v* [I *often imperative*] *infml* (used esp. to a child) to leave; go away: *Run along now, all of you! I'm busy.*

run around *phr v* [I+*adv/prep*, esp. **with**] to go about habitually in company (together or with): *Her husband found she'd been running around with another man.* —see also RUN-AROUND

run away *phr v* [I (**from**)] to go away (as if) to escape: *He ran away to sea/from home at the age of fourteen.* | *They ran away together to get married.* —see also RUNAWAY

run away with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to take and carry off secretly or illegally: *Someone's run away with all my jewels.* | *He ran away with his boss's wife.* **2** (of ideas, feelings, etc.) to gain control of and carry away: *Don't let your temper/enthusiasm run away with you.* **3** [*usu. in negatives*] to believe too easily (a false idea): *Don't run away with the idea that you needn't do any work, just because you're working for your father.* **4** *infml* to win (a game or competition) easily

run down *phr v* **1** [T] (**run** sbdy./sthg.↔**down**) to knock down and hurt (a person or large animal) with a motor vehicle, perhaps intentionally —compare RUN **into** (1), RUN **over** (1) **2** [I] (esp. of a clock or an electric BATTERY) to lose power and stop working **3** [I;T] (=**run** sthg.↔**down**) to (allow to) gradually stop working or be reduced in size; (allow to) DECLINE: *The coal industry is running down/is being run down.* **4** [T] (**run** sbdy./sthg.↔**down**) *infml* to say rude or unfair things about; DENIGRATE: *She's jealous of your success; that's why she's always running you down.* **5** [T] (**run**

sbdy./sthg.↔**down**) to find by searching: *See if you can run down that book in the library for me.* —see also RUNDOWN, RUN-DOWN

run sbdy./sthg. **in** *phr v* [T] **1** to bring (esp. an engine) gradually and carefully into full use **2** *infml* (of the police) to catch (a criminal); ARREST

run into sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] **1** to hit forcefully with one's vehicle: *We went too fast round the corner and ran into a lamppost.* —compare RUN **down** (1), RUN **over** (1) **2** *infml* to meet (someone) by chance: *Guess who I ran into in town today?* **3** to begin to experience (difficulty); get into (a difficult or unpleasant situation): *After a promising start, the company ran into trouble|into debt.* **4** to add up to; reach (a length or amount): *They had debts running into thousands of pounds.*

run sthg. ↔ **off** *phr v* [T] **1** to make up, perform, or repeat (a piece of music, poem, speech, etc.) quickly or easily. **2** to print (copies): *I'll run off a hundred of these notices for you.* **3** to get rid of (unwanted weight) by running: *You're too fat; try and run off all those excess pounds.* —see also RUN-OFF

run off with sbdy./sthg. *phr v* [T] to RUN **away with**

run on *phr v* [I] **1** to continue, esp. beyond the arranged time: *The concert ran on until eleven o'clock.* **2** *infml* to talk without stopping: *He'll run on for hours about his computer if you let him.*

run out *phr v* **1** [I] to come to an end, so that there is no more; be completely used up: *Our food soon ran out.| Have you nearly finished? Time is running out.* **2** [I (**of**)] to use all one's supplies; have no more: *"Can you give me a cigarette?" "Sorry, I've run out." | I'm afraid we've run out of petrol. | I'm running out of patience.* **3** [T *usu. pass.*] (**run** sbdy.↔**out**) (in cricket) to cause (a player who is in the middle of making a RUN[2] (10a)) to have to leave the field by hitting with the ball the WICKET towards which he is running

run sbdy. **out of** sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to force to leave (a place): *They ran him out of town.*

run out on sbdy./sthg. also **walk out on** sbdy./sthg.— *phr v* [T] *derog* to leave or desert (someone or something one is responsible for): *He ran out on his wife.*

run over *phr v* **1** [T] (**run** sbdy./sthg.↔**over**) (of a vehicle or its driver) to knock down and pass over the top of: *He was run over and killed by a bus. | I ran over a rabbit this morning.* —compare RUN **down** (1), RUN **into** (1) **2** [T] (**run over** sthg.) to RUN **through** (1) **3** [I] (of a liquid or its container) to overflow: *The water|bath|bucket ran over.*

run through *phr v* [T] **1** (**run through** sthg.) also **run over**— to repeat for practice: *Let's run through the first scene again.* —see also RUN-THROUGH **2** (**run through** sthg.) to read or examine quickly: *I'll just run through this list of figures with you.* **3** (**run through** sthg.) to spend (money) fast and esp. wastefully: *He soon ran through all his father's money.* **4** [*no pass.*] (**run through** sthg.) to be part of; spread right through: *A feeling of sadness runs through his poetry.* **5** (**run** sbdy. **through**) *esp. lit* to push one's sword right through

run to sthg. *phr v* [T *not in progressive forms*] *esp. BrE* to be or have enough to pay for: *My wages won't run to a car|to buying a car.*

run sthg. ↔ **up** *phr v* [T] **1** to raise (a flag): *They ran up the national flag on the queen's birthday.* **2** to cause oneself to have (bills or debts): *She ran up a large phone bill.* **3** to make quickly, esp. by sewing: *I ran this dress up in one evening.* —see also RUN-UP

run up against sthg. *phr v* [T] *infml* to meet or be forced to deal with (something difficult): *We ran up against some unexpected opposition.*

run[2] *n* **1** [C] an act of running: *She usually goes for a run|takes the dog for a run before breakfast. | A cross-country run is a run across the fields. | a five-mile run* **2** [S] a short journey in a car, esp. for pleasure: *Let's go for a run in the car.* **3** [C *usu. sing.*] a journey of the stated kind made regularly by a train, ship, TRUCK, etc.: *It's a 55-minute run from London to Brighton. | This old ferry used to be on the Felixstowe to Stockholm run.* **4** [C] a continuous set of performances of a play, film, etc.: *The play had a run of three months.* **5** [S+**of**] a continuous set of similar events; SEQUENCE: *I've had a* **run of bad luck** *recently.* (=lots of unlucky things have happened to me) **6** [*the* (**of**)] the usual or average sort: *She's different from the* **common/general run** *of students.* —see also RUN-OF-THE-MILL **7** [S+**on**] **a** an eager demand: *There's been a big run on ice cream during this hot weather.* **b** a general desire to sell money or to take one's money out: *The run on the pound forced the government to act. | a run on the bank* **8** [*the*+**of**] the freedom to visit or use (a place): *He's given our children the run of his garden. | I have the run of his extensive library.* **9** [C] an enclosed but usu. uncovered area where animals are kept: *a chicken run | a sheep run* **10** [C] a point won **a** in cricket, by two players running from one WICKET to the other, passing each other on the way: *England scored|made 301 runs.* **b** in BASEBALL, by a player reaching the home base safely: *a home run* **11** [C] a sloping course for a downhill sport: *a ski run* **12** [C] (in card games) a set of cards dealt to a person, in which the numbers on all the cards follow on from each other —compare FLUSH[5] **13** [C] (in music) a set of notes played or sung quickly up or down the SCALE[1] (5) without a break **14** [C] *AmE for* LADDER[1] (2): *I've got a run in my new panty hose.* **15 a (good) run for one's money** *infml* **a** plenty of opposition in a competition: *They may be a better team than us, but we'll give them a run for their money.* **b** good or satisfactory results, treatment, etc., (esp. in return for one's time, money or effort): *He lived to be 92, so I think he had a good run for his money.* **16 at a run** running: *She left the house at a run.* **17 in the ˈlong run** after a long period; in the end: *It'll be cheaper in the long run to use real leather because it will last longer.* **18 in the ˈshort run** for the near future: *Of course plastic's cheaper than leather in the short run, but it won't last as long.* **19 on the run** trying to escape or hide, esp. from the police: *The escaped murderer has been on the run for three weeks.* —see also RUNS, DUMMY RUN, FUN RUN, MILK RUN, TRIAL RUN

run-a·bout /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n infml* a small light car

run-a·round /ˈ· ·ˌ·/ *n* [*the*] *infml* delaying or deceiving treatment: *They've been giving me the run-around for six months now; they just won't give me a straight answer to a straight question. | He's been giving his wife the run-around.* (=making love to another woman) —see also RUN **around**

run·a·way[1] /ˈrʌnəweɪ/ *adj* [A] **1** out of control: *a runaway horse|train | We're suffering from runaway inflation.* **2** having run away: *a runaway child* **3** done by running away: *a runaway marriage*

runaway[2] *n* a person or animal that has run away —see also RUN **away**

Run·cie /ˈrʌnsi/, **Ro·bert** /ˈrɒbət‖ˈrɑːbərt/ (1921–) a minister of the church who was ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY and head of the Anglican church from 1980 to 1990

run·down /ˈrʌndaʊn/ *n* **1** [(*the*) S (**of**)] the (process of running something down (RUN **down** (3)): *the phased rundown of the steel industry* **2** [C (**on**)] *infml* a detailed report of a set of events: *I want a complete rundown on everything that happened while I was away.*

run-down /ˌ· ˈ·◂/ *adj* **1** (esp. of a place) old and broken or in bad condition; DILAPIDATED: *an old run-down hotel* **2** [F] (of a person) tired and weak and in poor health: *You need a holiday; you look a bit run-down.*

rune /ruːn/ *n* **1** any of the letters of an alphabet cut on stone, wood, etc., once used by the peoples of Northern Europe **2** a magic charm written or spoken mysteriously —**runic** *adj* : *the runic alphabet*

rung[1] /rʌŋ/ *past participle of* RING

rung[2] *n* **1** any of the cross-bars that form the steps of a ladder: *a broken rung* | (fig.) *The director made his son start* **on the bottom/first rung of the ladder** (=the lowest level in the organization) *as an office boy.* **2** a bar like this between the legs of a chair

run-in /ˈ· ·/ *n infml* a quarrel or disagreement, esp. with the police or an official body: *to have a run-in with the law*

run·nel /ˈrʌnl/ *n esp. lit* a small stream

run·ner /ˈrʌnəʳ/ *n* **1 a** a person or animal that runs, esp. **a** in a race or as a sport: *Bannister was the first runner to achieve the four-minute mile. | a long-distance runner | There are six runners* (=horses that will run) *in the 3.30 at Epsom. | the runner at first base* **b** (esp. in former times) to carry messages: *The general sent a runner from Marathon to Athens to carry the news.* **2** (*usu. in comb.*) someone who SMUGGLEs the stated goods (=takes them illegally into a country): *a dope-runner* **3** either of the two thin blades on which a SLEDGE slides over the snow or the single blade on which a SKATE slides over the ice **4**

the supporting bars on which a shelf, drawer, etc. slides **5** any of the stems with which a plant like the STRAWBERRY spreads itself along the ground —see also FRONT-RUNNER, RUNNERS

runner bean /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *BrE* ‖ **string bean** *AmE*– *n* a climbing bean with long green PODS (=seed containers) which are used as food —see picture at VEGETABLE

run·ners /ˈrʌnəz‖-ərz/ also **trainers** *BrE* ‖ **running shoes** *AmE*– *n* [P] a pair of shoes for running in or for other sports

runner-up /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **runners-up** *or* **runner-ups** the person or team that comes second in a race or competition

run·ning[1] /ˈrʌnɪŋ/ *n* [U] **1** the act or sport of running **2** direction; control: *He left the running of the company in the hands of his son.* **3 in/out of the running** with some/no hope of winning: *Charles is still in the running for the directorship/as a possible director.* **4 make the running** *BrE* to set the speed at which a race is run, at which a relationship develops, etc.; set a standard or be a leader: *If you want to be friends with her you'll have to make (all) the running.*

running[2] *adj* [A] **1** (of water) **a** flowing: *These fish prefer to live in running water.* **b** flowing from TAPS: *This hotel has hot and cold running water in every room.* **2 a** continuing over a long period: *For five years we had a* **running battle** *with the council over who was responsible for repairing the road.* **b** made during a process or activity: *a running commentary on the football match* (=describing it as it happens) | *Keep a running total of your expenses as you go along.* | *He couldn't stop to overhaul the engine properly, so he just made a few* **running repairs**. (=so as to be able to finish his journey) **3** for or concerned with running as a sport: *running shoes* | *a running track* **4** giving out PUS (=liquid matter) from the body: *a running sore* —compare RUNNY (2) **5 in ˈrunning order** (of a machine) working properly —see also RUN[1] (11)

running[3] *adv* (after a plural noun with a number) one after the other without a break; in a row: *She won the prize three times running.* | *For the third year running the company has made a big loss.*

running costs /ˈ·· ·/ *n* [P] the amount of money needed for operating a business or other activity: *The running costs of the helpline are met by donations.* | *We're trying to reduce our running costs.*

running jump /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* **1** a jump made by running to the point at which one takes off **2 take a running jump** [*often imperative*] *infml* to go away and stop being annoying: *If he asks you any more personal questions, tell him to take a running jump.*

running mate /ˈ·· ·/ *n* (in US politics) a person with whom another is trying to get elected to a pair of political positions of greater and less importance, esp. those of President and Vice-President: *Reagan has yet to choose his running mate.*

run·ny /ˈrʌni/ *adj infml* **1** in a more liquid form than is usual or expected: *runny butter* **2** (of the nose or eyes) producing liquid, as when one has a cold: *She wiped the baby's runny nose.* —compare RUNNING[2] (5)

Run·ny·mede /ˈrʌnimiːd/ a field near the River Thames at Egham, S England, where King John is said to have signed the Magna Carta in 1215 —see MAGNA CARTA

run-off /ˈ· ·/ *n* **1** [C] a last race or competition to decide the winner, because two or more people have won an equal number of points, races, etc. —compare PLAY-OFF; see also RUN **off** **2** [U] liquid which flows off or from (something): *nitrogen-rich run-off from agricultural land* **3 run-off election** *AmE* a state election held if in the first election no person got more than half of the vote. The two people with most votes compete against each other to be elected.

run-of-the-mill /ˌ· · · ˈ·◂/ *adj usu. derog* ordinary; not special in any way: *a run-of-the-mill office job/performance* —see also RUN[2] (6)

run-on sen·tence /ˈ· · ˌ··/ *n AmE* a sentence that contains too many CLAUSES to be read or understood easily and which is better made into two or more sentences

runs /rʌnz/ also **trots**– *n* [*the*+P] *infml for* DIARRHOEA

runt /rʌnt/ *n* **1** a small badly developed animal, esp. the smallest of a set of baby pigs **2** *derog* a small unpleasant person

run-through /ˈ· ·/ *n* an act of running through something for practice (RUN **through**): *We need one more run-through before the performance.*

run-up /ˈ· ·/ *n esp. BrE* **1** [C] (in sports) an act or distance of running in order to gain enough speed for a particular action: *a bowler's run-up* **2** [*the*+(**to**)] (the activities in) the period of time leading up to an event: *During the run-up to the election the polls showed the Democrats in the lead.* **3** [C] *AmE* a sudden increase

run·way /ˈrʌnweɪ/ *n* an area with a specially prepared hard surface, on which aircraft land and take off —compare AIRSTRIP

Run·yon /ˈrʌnjən/, **Da·mon** /ˈdeɪmən/ (1884–1946) an American writer of stories about GANGSTERS. Runyon's characters talk and act in a rough and violent way, and people will say that someone is behaving or talking like someone out of Damon Runyon if they are acting like this.

ru·pee /ruːˈpiː/ *n* (a note or coin worth) a unit of money in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and some other countries

Ru·pert Bear /ˌruːpət ˈbeəʳ‖-pərt-/ (in Britain) a little bear dressed in a red jumper and yellow checked trousers and a SCARF, who is the main character in a popular collection of children's stories by Mary Tourtel

rup·ture[1] /ˈrʌptʃəʳ/ *n* **1** [C;U] *tech or fml* (a) sudden breaking apart or bursting: *the rupture of a blood vessel* | (fig.) *It is sad to see the rupture of friendly relations between our two countries.* **2** [C] a lump in the front wall of the stomach; HERNIA

rupture[2] *v tech* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) break or burst: *They reported that the pipeline had ruptured.* **2** [T] to cause (oneself) to have a RUPTURE[1] (2): *He ruptured himself lifting a heavy weight.*

ru·ral /ˈrʊərəl/ *adj* of or like the COUNTRYSIDE; concerning country or village life: *Rural bus services are often inadequate.* | *a peaceful rural setting* | *rural areas* —opposite **urban**; compare RUSTIC[1] (1)

rural free de·liv·er·y /ˌ·· ˌ· ·ˈ···/ *n AmE* RFD

Ru·ri·ta·ni·an /ˌrʊərɪˈteɪniən◂/ *adj* typical of Ruritania, an imaginary small European kingdom of former times, full of exciting but clearly unreal adventures

ruse /ruːz‖ruːs, ruːz/ *n* a trick to deceive an opponent

rush[1] /rʌʃ/ *v* **1** [I+*adv/prep*; T+*obj*+*adv/prep*] to (cause to) go or move suddenly and with great speed or violence: *They rushed up the stairs/out into the street/towards the door.* | *The fire engine rushed past us as we waited at the traffic lights.* | *Doctors and medical supplies were rushed to the scene of the accident.* | *We'll try to rush your order through* (=deal with it especially quickly) *before Saturday.* **2** [I;T (**into**)] to (cause or force to) hurry or act (too) quickly: *There's plenty of time; we needn't rush.* | *Don't rush into marriage; you might regret it later.* | *You shouldn't rush this sort of work.* | *Don't rush your breakfast; you'll get indigestion.* **3** [T (**into**)] to force (someone) to act or decide hastily: *Don't rush me; let me think about it.* | *I was rushed into buying these fur boots.* **4** [T] to attack suddenly and all together: *We rushed the guards and captured their guns.* **5** [I;T] (in FOOTBALL[3]) to carry the ball forward: *The home team rushed for seven yards in the last play.* **6** [T] *AmE* **a** to entertain someone or a group of people before deciding who may become a member of a FRATERNITY or SORORITY **b** to go to parties or events of a sorority or fraternity in order to try to become a member: *Which fraternity are you going to rush?* **7 be rushed off one's feet** to be so busy that one has no time to stop or rest

rush[2] *n* **1** [C] a sudden rapid and often violent movement: *There was a rush for* (=towards) *the exits when the film ended.* | *When the new space programme was agreed, there was a big rush for the valuable government contracts.* **2** [S;U] (need for) (too much) hurrying: *We needn't leave yet; what's all the rush?* | *There's no rush.* | *I've got to write a report for my boss before tomorrow; it'll be a bit of a* **rush job**. (=I haven't enough time to do it properly) **3** [U] great activity and excitement: *I hate shopping during the Christmas rush when the shops are crowded.* **4** [S+**on/for**/*to-v*] a sudden great demand: *There's been a rush on/a rush for/a rush to get tickets for the big football game.* **5** *AmE sl* a sudden strong feeling of excitement —see also GOLD RUSH **6** [U] *AmE* a period of time at American colleges during which students who wish to join fraternities (FRATERNITY) or sororities (SORORITY)

must attend their many social activities in order to be considered for membership. In the past, rush has involved too much alcoholic drinking, leading to accidents. Now **dry rush** (=no alcohol) is popular at many colleges.

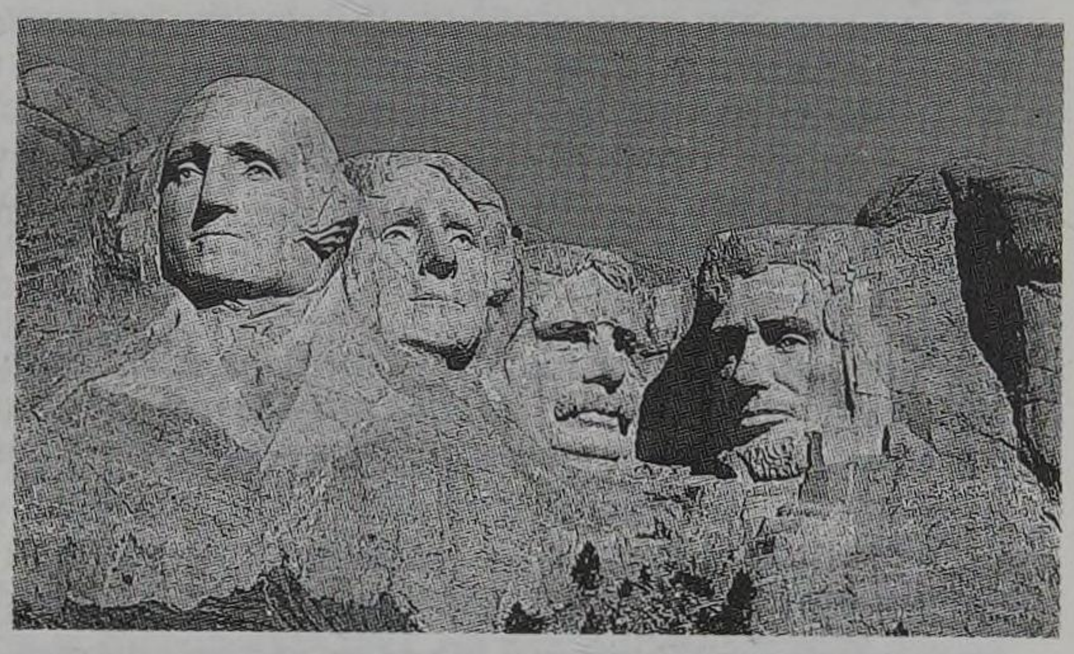
rush[3] *n* a grasslike water plant whose long thin hollow stems are often dried and made into mats, baskets, and the seats of chairs: *a rush mat* —~**y** *adj*

rush·es /ˈrʌʃɨz/ also **dailies** *AmE*— *n* [P] (in film-making) the first prints of a film before it has been edited (EDIT): *Most directors like to see the rushes of the previous day's shooting.*

rush hour /ˈ· ·/ also **peak hour, peak time** *BrE*— *n* [C;U] either of the two periods in the day (usu. longer than an hour) when people are travelling to and from work in a city and the streets are crowded. The images people have of rush hour is of a lot of tired unsmiling faces crowded into buses and trains and long lines of cars trying to get to or from work as fast as possible: *I like to get to work before the rush hour.* | *rush hour traffic* | *There's a train every half hour, or every 20 minutes at peak time.*

rush·light /ˈrʌʃlaɪt/ *n* a kind of candle made by dipping the inside part of a RUSH[3] into melted fat, used esp. in former times

Mount Rushmore



Rush·more /ˈrʌʃmɔːr/, **Mount** also **Mount Rushmore National Memorial** *fml*— *n* a mountain face in South Dakota which has been carved (CARVE) into the faces of four US presidents: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt

rush week /ˈ· ·/ *n AmE* the week, usu. in the autumn, in which fraternities (FRATERNITY) and sororities (SORORITY) hold parties and other events to attract new members

rusk /rʌsk/ *n esp. BrE* a hard dry BISCUIT for babies, often made from a piece of bread baked hard

Rus·sell /ˈrʌsəl/, **Ber·trand** /ˈbɜːtrənd‖ˈbɜːr-/ (1872–1970) a British PHILOSOPHER and MATHEMATICIAN, born the 3rd **Earl Russell**, who for most of his life also fought for the cause of peace. He received the NOBEL PRIZE for literature in 1950.

Russell, Charles (1864–1926) an American who painted scenes of COWBOYS and of NATIVE AMERICANS

Russell, Ken (1927–) a film director best known for DOCUMENTARY films and for the film *Women in Love*

rus·set /ˈrʌsɨt/ *n* [U] *esp. lit* of a reddish brown or golden brown colour —**russet** adj

Rus·sia /ˈrʌʃə/ also **the Russian Fed·er·a·tion** /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ *fml*— a country in E Europe stretching from the far North and the Arctic to the Black Sea in S; capital Moscow; population 147,350,000 (1989). It is part of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) which was formerly the USSR. —see CIS, **from Russia with love** (FROM)

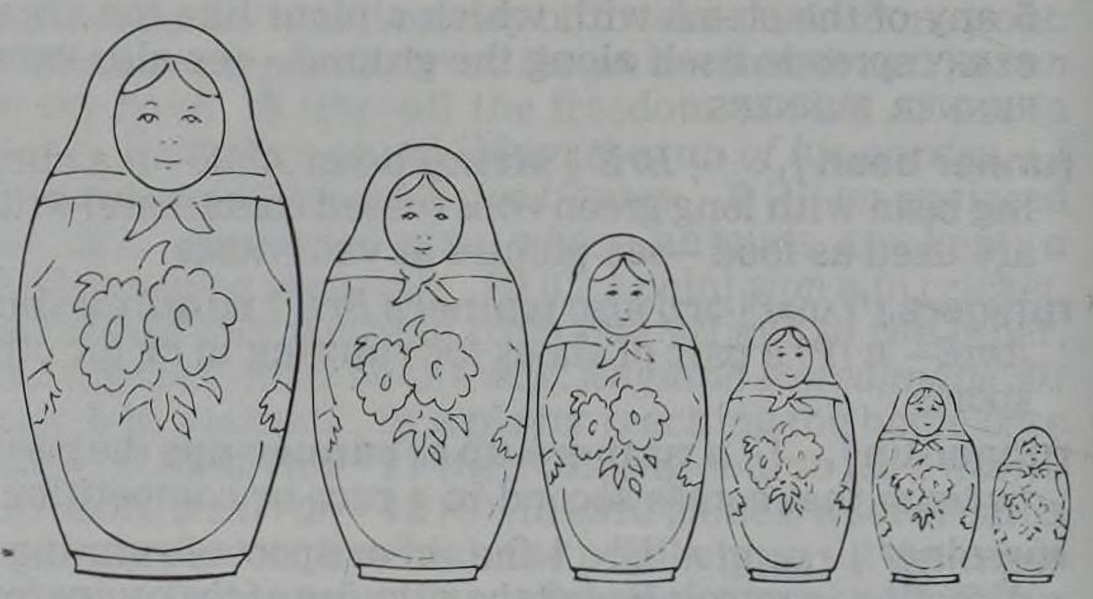
Rus·sian /ˈrʌʃən/ *n* **1** [C] a person who comes from or whose parents come from Russia **2** [U] the language of Russia —**Russian** *adj*

Russian dolls /ˌ·· ˈ·/ *n* [P] a Russian toy which is a set of wooden figures of a woman of different sizes, the largest one having all the others inside

Russian Or·tho·dox Church /ˌ·· ˌ··· ˈ·/ [*the*] the leading Russian Christian church —**Russian Orthodox** *adj*

Russian Rev·o·lu·tion /ˌ·· ··ˈ··/ [*the*] the events of 1917, when the Russian people overthrew (OVERTHROW) their TSAR and then a government before the COMMUNISTS took over under the leadership of Lenin

Russian dolls



Russian rou·lette /ˌ·· ·ˈ·/ *n* [U] a dangerous game in which one shoots at one's own head a gun with a bullet in only one of the CHAMBERS (=set of spaces for bullets), without knowing whether it will fire or not

Russo- see WORD FORMATION

rust[1] /rʌst/ *n* [U] **1** the reddish brown surface that forms on iron and some other metals when they are attacked by water and air: *patches of rust on the bicycle frame* | *a tin of rust remover* | *rust-coloured upholstery* **2** a plant disease causing reddish brown spots: *wheat rust* —see also RUSTPROOF, RUSTY

rust[2] *v* [I;T] to (cause to) become covered with rust: *Stainless steel does not rust.* | *The rain will rust the iron roof.*

rust away *phr v* [I;T (=**rust** sthg.↔**away**)] to (cause to) disappear through the action of rust: *The ancient lock had completely rusted away so the door opened easily.*

Rust Belt /ˈ· ·/ *AmE* an area in the northern US consisting of states which are suffering economically because their large industries, esp. the steel and car industries, have become smaller or stopped doing business: *This race will be all over by Illinois, one of the two big Rust Belt primaries (Michigan is the other) held on March 17.*

rus·tic[1] /ˈrʌstɪk/ *adj* **1** *often apprec* typical of the country, esp. in being simple and unspoiled by modern developments: *The village has a certain rustic charm.* —compare RURAL **2** [A] (of furniture and wooden objects) roughly made out of wood with its BARK (=outer skin) left on: *a rustic garden seat* —~**ity** /rʌˈstɪsɨti/ *n* [U]

rustic[2] *n old-fash, often derog* a person from the country, esp. a farm worker

rus·tic·ate /ˈrʌstɪkeɪt/ *v* [T] *BrE fml* to send (a student) away from university for a period as a punishment

rus·tle[1] /ˈrʌsəl/ *v* **1** [I;T] to (cause to) make slight sounds like paper, dry leaves, silk, etc., moving or being rubbed together: *Her long silk skirt rustled as she walked.* | *Stop rustling that newspaper!* **2** [T] *esp. AmE* to steal (cattle or horses that are left loose in open country)

rustle sthg.↔**up** *phr v* [T] *infml* to provide or find quickly: *I'll try and rustle up something for you to eat.*

rustle[2] *n* [S] a sound of rustling: *a rustle of leaves*

rus·tler /ˈrʌslər/ *n esp. AmE* a cattle thief; person who rustles cattle

rust·proof /ˈrʌstpruːf/ *adj* (of metal) protected from RUST by special treatment —**rustproof** *v* [T]

rust·y /ˈrʌsti/ *adj* **1** (of metal) covered with RUST: *a rusty nail* **2** [F] *infml* (of one's knowledge of a subject, language, etc.) mostly forgotten: *My French is a bit rusty.* **3** [F] *infml* unable to perform well because of lack of recent practice: *I agreed to play in the cricket match, although I'm very rusty.* **4** *old-fash* (of black cloth) having become brown with age —**-iness** *n* [U]

rut[1] /rʌt/ *n* **1** [C] a deep narrow track left in soft ground by a wheel: *The farm carts have worn ruts in the lane.* **2** [S] a fixed and dull way of life: *I felt I was getting into a rut|stuck in a rut, so I decided to change my job.* *See picture on page 1159*

rut[2] *v* **-tt-** [T] to form ruts in: *the rutted surface of the road*

rut[3] *n* [(*the*) U] *tech* (the season of) sexual excitement in an animal, esp. a male deer

rut[4] *v* **-tt-** [I] *tech* (of an animal, esp. a male deer) to be in a state of sexual excitement: *rutting stags*

ru·ta·ba·ga /ˌruːtəˈbeɪgə/ *n AmE for* SWEDE

Ruth /ruːθ/, **Babe** (1895–1948) an American BASEBALL

player, the most famous in the game's history, who set HOME RUN records which stood for almost 40 years, and was known as the Sultan of Swat

Babe Ruth



Ruth, Doctor see DOCTOR RUTH

Ruth·er·ford /ˈrʌðəfəd‖-ðərfərd/, **Er·nest** /ˈɜːnɪ̯st‖ˈɜːr-/ (1871–1937) a British scientist who suggested a THEORY about the changes made in atoms by RADIOACTIVITY. He was the first to split the atom.

Rutherford, Dame Margaret (1892–1972) an English actress famous for playing ECCENTRIC old ladies, and known esp. for playing the Agatha Christie character, Miss Marple

ruth·less /ˈruːθləs/ *adj* **1** (of a person or their behaviour) showing no human feelings; without pity or forgiveness: *The enemy killed women and children with ruthless cruelty.* **2** *not always derog* firm in taking unpleasant decisions: *We'll have to be ruthless if we want to eliminate unnecessary waste.* —~**ly** *adv* —~**ness** *n* [U]

Rut·land /ˈrʌtlənd/ the smallest English COUNTY until 1974, when it became part of Leicestershire

RV /ˌɑː ˈviː‖ˌɑːr-/ *n AmE* see RECREATIONAL VEHICLE

Rw·an·da /ruˈændə‖-ˈɑːn-/ a country in E central Africa bordered by Zaire, Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi; capital: Kigali; population 6,989,000 (1989) —**Rwandan** *n,adj*

Rx. *n AmE written abbrev. for* PRESCRIPTION

Ry·an /ˈraɪən/, **No·lan** /ˈnəʊlən/ (1947–) a BASEBALL player known for his pitching (PITCH¹ (9))

Ry·der Cup /ˈraɪdə ˌkʌp‖-dər-/ [*the*] a GOLF competition between the best players in Europe and the US, held every other year

rye /raɪ/ *n* [U] a grass plant grown in cold countries for its grain, which is used esp. for making flour: *rye bread* | *rye whisky* —see picture at CEREAL